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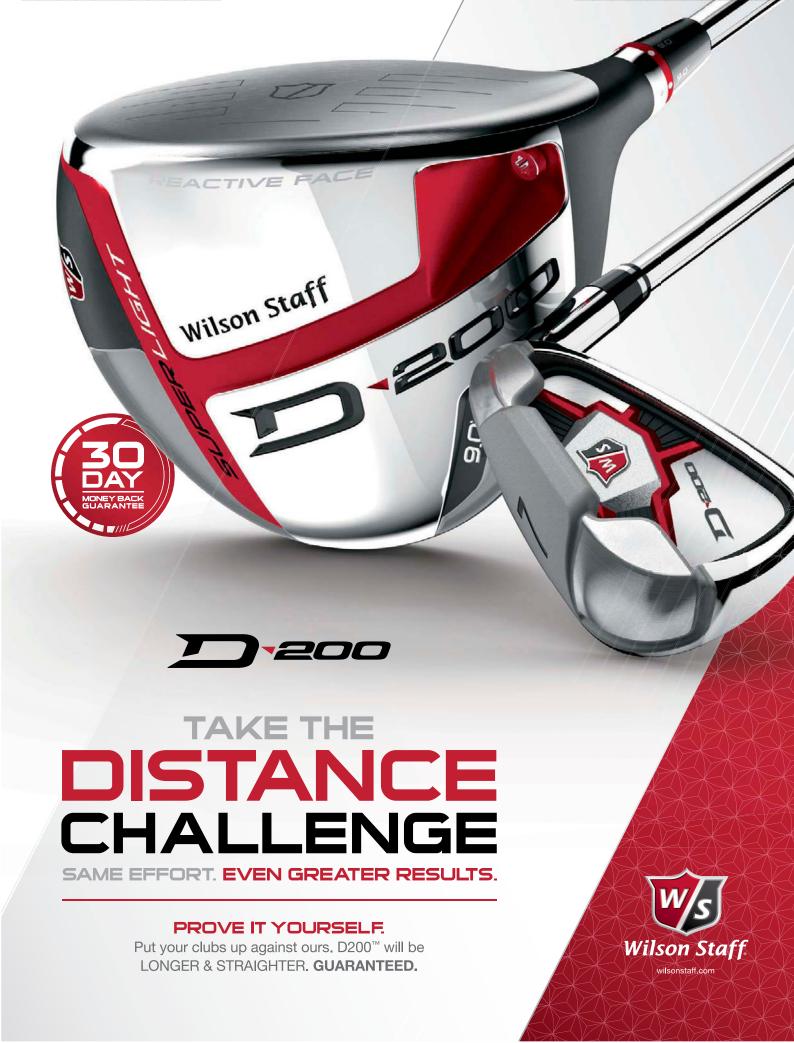
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Golf clubs need to be vibey places

By Stuart McLean, Editor

'm playing more golf than usual this year. I'm enjoying the game, the exercise, the camaraderie, visiting different courses, the challenge it always presents. Whenever there's a round to be had, I'm up for it. Golf is cyclical in that respect for golfers in South Africa. Because we live in a golfing paradise where golf is accessible year round, we go through periods where the game is either uppermost in our lives, or the furthest thing from our mind.

I have the occasional game at the Metropolitan in Cape Town with Spiro Bouloukos, a club member who took a 12-year sabbatical from golf, and now, in his early 50s, is making up for those lost years by playing as often as he can.

Spiro is an interesting study at a time when people who run the game around the world are trying to get their head around what can be done to make golf more popular; entice newcomers to the game, and retain those who are looking to quit. They are talking about introducing 6-hole golf, 9-hole golf, speed golf, anything that might right the ship, if indeed the ship is holed under the waterline as everyone maintains.

The emphasis seems to be on turning golf into a get-in-and-out-as-fast-as-you-can game. Call me old-fashioned, but I believe that golfers generally prefer a more leisurely approach, where they can also socialise afterwards at their home club. That is after all the game's prime asset. It's a game which appeals to the tortoise in us, not the hare, although please don't let one of them play in front of me.

Spiro is just one of many enthusiastic members at the Met who enjoy their 18-hole golfing fix on a course that only has 9 holes. If you pop in there during the week you would never imagine that golf is in a supposed crisis. The club is bustling, there's a buzz and banter at fully-attended prizegivings; and while there's a

majority of older golfers in the field, it's not all retirees.

Yet all this isn't happening by accident. The Met is one of those member golf clubs – and I've seen other examples this year, like Randpark, Erinvale, Westlake and Umhlali – where the staff and committee put considerable effort into ensuring their club delivers a wonderful member experience on and off the course. They also attract plenty of visitors in the summer months, yet you can see the focus lies in keeping their members happy through maintaining a good vibe. People join golf clubs to have a fun time with friends, not just to play golf. Some golf clubs have forgotten that premise.

In recent years I've also been to golf clubs where the prizegivings are desultory affairs, there's no life in them whatsoever, and those members who still play there leave as quickly as possible after their rounds. One traditional old club hired out their function rooms on a Saturday for a birthday party and conference, and put the members in the halfway house. No wonder the virtual clubs are flourishing. What is the point of being a member of a club, paying between

R10 000 and R20 000 a year in subscriptions, when your golf club won't go the extra mile for you?

Mountain biking is blamed for the loss of golfers from the game, and perhaps it is. But not to the extent everyone presumes. The perception is that golfers are wealthy, and would comfortably gravitate to a sport where the equipment can be far costlier than a set of clubs. In fact, golf is not a rich man's sport, and golfers who quit are doing so because it's a luxury they can no longer afford. They might stay, though, if they feel they're missing out on some fun.

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GolfDigest

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FOREIGN subscriptions: +27 21 530 3112
DIGITAL subscriptions: MYSUBS
mysubs.co.za 0861 697 827

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Published by New Media Publishing (Pty) Ltd, New Media House, 19 Bree Street, Cape Town PO Box 440, Green Point, Cape Town 8051

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"When the clubhead out-races the hands, it's Chunk City."

Why'd I Do That?

Easy little shot, but you dump it



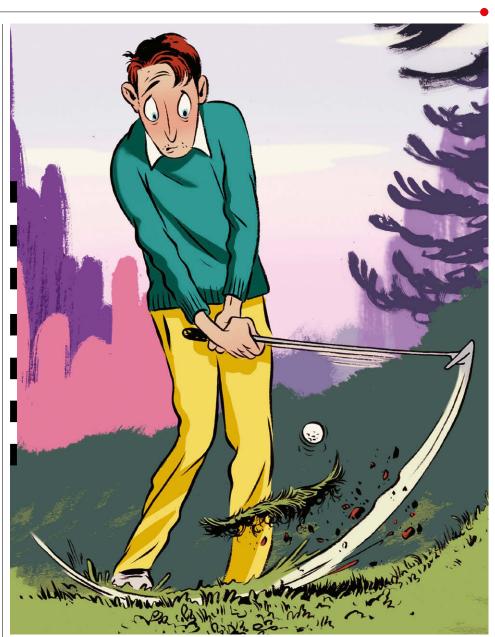


lot of courses these days are mowing greenside areas super snug.

So you're seeing more and more pool-table lies on chips and pitches. It's easy to hit behind the ball – the classic chunk.

The problem often stems from a poor setup, with your weight on your back foot and spine leaning away from the target. Poor tempo – like slow going back and fast coming down – is another common cause of the short-game chunk. Oh, and tight wrists can lead to a flipping action at the ball, where the clubhead out-races the hands and the club bottoms out before you get to impact. Okay, enough bad stuff – here's how you can eliminate the chunk.

First, simulate a great impact position in your setup, with your upper body leaning towards the target, weight forward, sternum in line with the ball. Then, as you swing back, keep the clubface square or slightly open - this will help you slide the clubhead through impact. Try to return the shaft at impact to its address position by turning your hips towards the target. Finally, let your eyes track the ball as you swing through. Staring down rigidly is a chunk waiting to happen.



HEY, IT'S GOOD TO BE SHALLOW



It's helpful to have an image that matches your intended technique. Consider this for greenside shots: An Olympic swimmer enters the water at a shallow angle and stays just below the surface as long as possible before starting to swim. Think of your clubhead as the swimmer, so after impact it

slides along the grass, staying low to the ground. That will prevent a deep dig – or the equally unhelpful scoop at impact.

— JOE PARENT,
PhD, AUTHOR OF ZEN GOLF

Jim McLean is based at Trump National Doral in Miami.







Take the Easy Way Out

Ball forward, spank the sand behind it



here are all kinds of shots I could teach you from a greenside bunker, but I'll bet you would be happy with just one: A shot that puts you somewhere on the green – every time.

I know you're feeling some nerves when you climb into the sand, so I'm going to keep this simple. It's mostly about the setup. Holding your sand wedge in front of you, turn the face open about 20 degrees, then take your grip.

Get into your stance with the ball way forward – opposite the heel of your front foot. Then set a little more weight on your front side, but don't push your hands towards the target. You want the shaft to be straight up and down.

Make a half backswing, then really spank the sand five to eight centimetres behind the ball. Here's the visual: You're throwing the sand and the ball out of the bunker together. Easy – and it works.

issues on bunker shots is, people think they're supposed to cut across the ball. When you do that, you lose the sliding action of the club. Why? Because that action comes from the face being open, and it's hard to hold the face open when it's cutting to the left. Swing out to your target, like on a normal pitch shot.

Butch Harmon

is a Golf Digest Teaching Professional.





One Move to Better Impact

Push off with your back foot to start down

he snapshots I get on Twitter don't show dynamic motion, but the comments tell the story. People want to hit it further and straighter. The main way to do that is to improve your impact. Good footwork is a place to start.

You want your upper body to

be tilted slightly back from where it was at address and your lower body slightly forward (below, right). This happens with proper foot action: Start the downswing by pushing off with the inside of your back foot, which moves the hips forward.

When you start down like this, you create a slight spine tilt

away from the ball – making it easier to hit from the inside – and shift the bottom of the swing in front of the ball. Stay off your toes until the finish.

Hank Haney is based at the Hank Haney Golf Ranch, Lewisville, Texas. To get fixed in Golf Digest, send Hank your swing on Twitter: @HankDHaney.





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"Take 30 minutes to warm up, 15 short game, 15 full swing."

Rehearse Your Round

Practise the shots you'll need that day



hen you warm up before you play, do you hit shots with a purpose? That is, once you've loosened up, do you practise the shots that give you the most trouble on the course you're about to play? The right prep will help your scoring.

Here's an example regarding my preparation for the Masters. Augusta National is very long, and I know I'll have to hit a number of hybrid clubs on approach shots. So I'll practise hard with my hybrids to make sure I have them under control and can hit them a little higher than normal to hold Augusta's speedy greens. In my warm-up, I'll try some hybrids until I hit a few I really like. Then when I face one on the course, in my mind I know I've already done it.

Another shot that is always critical for me is the tee shot on the 12th hole – the wonderful par 3 that requires precise distance control. On the Augusta range (*below*), I'll take my 7-iron, visualising the shot I want to hit. Then I'll make sure I hit at least one great 7-iron so that when I'm on

ELEMENTARY WATSON

Many of you don't allow enough time to prepare properly for a round. I see a lot of players rush through their warm-ups, then need several holes to get going. I'd urge you to take at least 30 minutes warming up, the first 15 working on shortgame feel, the second 15 hitting balls - with a purpose!

Excerpted from the DVD "Lessons of a Lifetime II," by Tom Watson.





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"On a long par 5, your tee shot dictates how you play the hole."

Position Golf

Playing smart always beats whaling away



ilton Head's Harbour Town Golf Links and I have a long history. It was the first course I was involved in designing, back in 1969. I was at the height of my playing career when the owner, Charles Fraser, asked me if I had any interest in designing courses. I thought it would be fun, and suggested Pete Dye and I work together on Harbour Town, site of the RBC Heritage tournament on the PGA Tour. I made 23 site visits and realised course design would be one of my greatest joys. Harbour Town's 588-yard (538-metre) 15th is a good par 5. The dogleg-left to a small green requires clear thinking, especially with a tournament on the line.

IN THE

If you bail out to the right – or had to aim there because you were blocked by the trees – you'll have a difficult pitch. That's your penalty: having to play over a bunker to a green sloping away from you. You'll remember that next time.

CLASSIC

The trees were shorter when we designed the course. Now, tall trees guard several greens, and if you're on the wrong side, you'll have to draw or fade your approach. Here, two trees and a pond protect the left side, so you have to stay right.

SET UP YOUR THIRD

-WITH ROGER SCHIFFMAN

If your tee shot ends up in this bunker, aim at a conservative target to the right. Hit a shot that leaves you a comfortable distance to play your third into the throat or full length of the green.

COURSE CONDITIONS

Harbour Town's big finish



For most of the round at Harbour Town, dense tree lines shelter you from the winds that blow off Calibogue Sound. But when you get to the par-3 17th and par-4 18th, which are on the water and totally unprotected, fierce gusts are the norm. It can be a different ball game that last half hour. The lesson is – and this applies no matter where you play – be ready to adjust to changing conditions. Golf is about handling whatever challenges come your way and not letting any surprises throw you off.

FAVOUR THE RIGHT

The smart play for the long hitter is to put the tee shot in the right side of the fairway to have a chance of knocking it on in two. For the average golfer, the second shot should also favour the right to ensure a clear approach.

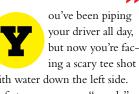
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"Slicers hit pull-hooks when they feel like they're aimed right."



Why'd I Do That?

Water left, and vou duck-hook



There are two types of severe misses to the left. The first one affects the 90 percent of golfers who usually play a pull-slice. The club comes from outside to in, but the face is normally open so the ball works back into play. With water on the left, these players try to start the ball further right, but they instinctively fear going way right, so they spin the hips and shoulders left and release the club more. That sends the ball left. They need to trust their fade, maintain rhythm, and feel the lower

body go towards the target, which drops the club on an inside path.

The other miss affects players who tend to hook or push the ball. With water left, the tendency is to aim and swing the club to the right. Under pressure, the body slows, the hands flip the club over, and the ball duck-hooks. They need to swing more down the target line, rotating the body to the left. This will quiet the hands and slow the face rotation to prevent a quick hook.



SEE NO WATER

If you're playing in a tournament, try to identify the dangerous tee shots during your practice round. Then, the night before you play, visualise over and over where you want to hit the ball. But the key comes during the round: Recall your visualisation, trust it and swing. In your pre-shot routine, never look at the trouble. Focus on where you want the ball to land. Make the visual cue you rehearsed at night more important than the outcome.

DR BOB ROTELLA



LAIRD DUNKS IT AT THE LAST

Martin Laird took a three-stroke lead into the final round of the Waste Management Phoenix Open in February. After some shaky play down the stretch, he was a shot back of Brooks Koepka standing on the 18th tee, which features water down the left side. Laird's 5-wood tee shot hooked and never had a chance (above). The resulting double bogey let Koepka get his first PGA Tour win.

Rick Smith is a **Golf Digest Teaching** Professional.

drink. What just happened?

STROKE PATH: STRAIGHT OR CURVED?

The answer might surprise you



e can finally put to rest the age-old question of whether a proper stroke moves the putterhead straight along the target line or on an arc that goes inside the line on the backstroke and inside again on the through-stroke. The answer? It does both – it's a matter of perspective.

Let me explain.

First, look at the photos below of professional golfer Chris Trunzer. In the left photo, the stroke appears to be tracking directly along the target line. In the right photo, it's clearly moving inside the line. So which is correct? Actually, it's the same stroke! The only difference is the position of the camera.

In the first photo, the camera lens is set up in the same plane that the putterhead is swinging in (about 20 centimetres to the left of the target line), which makes it appear to be moving straight along the target line. In the second photo, the camera is directly behind the line. This gives the appearance that the stroke is arcing to the inside before and after

impact, but the stroke has not changed. In both cases, the putter stayed on plane and the putterface stayed square to that plane. These images reveal the natural swing plane in putting, something I discovered through my research.

To help you visualise this plane, see the image on the next page. Picture a circular piece of glass (a plane) with a hole in the centre through which your head and shoulders can protrude. Now imagine getting into your normal putting setup with the putterhead in this plane and your hands sitting below the plane. The glass would be tilted at about 10 degrees from vertical, with your eyes over the ball and the centre of the putterface. Now if



"The same stroke can look straight or curved, depending on where you're standing."

you looked down at the bottom edge of this piece of glass – remember your eyes are protruding through it – the swing path along that edge would appear to trace an arc.

But if an observer looked at the path from within the plane, the path would look like a straight line. This is perhaps why some people assume you have to make an arcing stroke, and others insist the putter should move straight back and straight through. It's a matter of the observer's position relative to the plane.

This is all very interesting to someone like me who studies putting – but hopefully to you, too. It has a massive effect on how well you putt. To achieve

this natural plane, my advice is to use the image of the putterhead swinging along the piece of glass. If you try to force an arc, your mind will be trying to tell your body what to do and not letting the stroke happen naturally, leading to another source of error. Instead, let your body do what's comfortable, without manipulation.

It wants to let the shoulders, arms, wrists, hands and putter – the fixed structure – rock back and forth in a pendulum-like fashion, with the rhythm influenced by the inertia of this structure. This allows you to swing within the plane and will naturally limit a lot of the extraneous movements that typically cause you to miss putts. I call these movements "degrees of freedom,"

and there are six of them. They include rotating the putterface open or closed; moving the putterhead on a diagonal outside or inside the path; and breaking the wrists. These movements are the culprits in most missed putts.

For more consistency, your goal should be to constrain most of the degrees of freedom except for letting the putter move back and through at a comfortable rhythm. This will happen naturally if you don't try to manipulate the path. If you practice letting your body do what it wants to do, putting is easy. Just let it happen. — WITH RON KASPRISKE

Frank Thomas is the founder of Frankly Golf and created the Certified Putting Instructor course to help professionals teach putting. He was technical director of the USGA for 26 years and has written four books on golf, most recently The Fundamentals of Putting.

THE NATURAL PLANE

▶ This pane of glass shows the natural plane in putting tilted at about 10 degrees from vertical. From the golfer's view, the putterhead travels in an arc.







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"IT WASN'T UNTIL 2007, WHEN I STARTED LOOKING AT THE WORLD TOP 100, THAT I DISCOVERED DURBAN CC WAS THE ONLY COURSE IN AFRICA ON THAT LIST."

"I'm not a millionaire," says Fergal, "Money can't buy you access to these courses anyway. It's a question of being smart with your travel plans and networking with the right people, members of exclusive clubs. I was lucky enough to meet some of them while taking a summer job as a caddy during my university years at Trinity College in Dublin. I went over to The Country Club in Brookline, near Boston, one of the oldest and most reputable clubs in the US. Being a scratch golfer, I was often invited to play with the members. Golf is about camaraderie and helping other golfers out. When I'm asked how I've been able to play golf at all these famous clubs, my answer is – it's not what you know, it's who you know - and you need to strike while the iron is hot! I consistently experienced wonderful welcomes by club members around the world."

Fergal started off in 2007 with a goal to playing the Top 100 courses in the United States, and only when he had accomplished that in 2011 did he turn his attention to the World Top 100. "I was more than halfway there, having played the American courses on the list, and also many of those in Ireland and the United Kingdom, so I took on the challenge."

Fergal, who rates courses for

GOLF Magazine and Golf Digest, travels extensively in his profession, and had accumulated plenty of frequent flyer miles to make the trips to different continents. "Funnily enough, it was golf clubs outside the US which proved the most difficult to access. The toughest by far was Golf de Morfontaine, close to Paris. The doors are firmly closed to visitors. It took me years to find a member who invited me to play. Golfing in Asia is also very exclusive and it's a significant challenge to access the elite private clubs, especially when they are on the other side of the world. The top Japanese course, Hirono, was a tough nut.

that "golf is a science, a study of a lifetime, in which you may exhaust yourself but never your subject." To that end, whenever he travels to play a Top 100 course on his list, he remains in that country to experience what else there is to offer. He's not the bucket-list trophy hunter who flies in and flies out once the job is done.

So when he comes to South Africa he has other rounds planned, at Humewood (Australian friend Darius Oliver recommended this as a "Must Play"), St Francis Links, The Links at Fancourt, Leopard Creek and Gary Player CC.

"This is not my first trip to South Africa," he says. "I was there in 2005, and played many

appropriate that it should be the last, although some would have saved No 1 for that honour. Any reason for it being left until last? "Yes, that was deliberate," says Fergal."Not only is it a very long trip from Boston, but it was a dedicated trip for just one course. I also didn't want to travel to South Africa by myself, because it's such a beautiful country and it's best to share the many unique aspects of the country with someone special. My girlfriend is coming with me, and we're going to the Kruger National Park and many other landmark sites before I start playing the courses."

Durban CC will be putting out the welcome mat, thanks



Logistically, South Korea, China and Japan were tricky for me because of the language barrier. However, golfing in Asia turned out to be the greatest and most memorable experiences."

Fergal has a holistic approach to golf, one which embraces the opportunity for companionship, courtesy and generosity. He is inspired by the much quoted words of 19th century St Andrews golfer David Forgan, of the top courses in Cape Town and Garden Route, and loved them. It wasn't until 2007, when I started looking at the World Top 100, that I discovered Durban CC was the only course in Africa on that list. To this day, I still remember my first reaction, "Oh, god, I'll have to go all the way back there again!"

Durban CC is No 100 on the current list, so it's

to the efforts of club member John Terry-Lloyd, who has done much for the club in terms of public relations. "I've arranged a fourball for Fergal which includes our club captain Garth Davis, and two of our best golfers, Lyall McNeill, a former KZN Open champion, and Jason Broomhead, our 17-year-old club champion."

- STUART McLEAN



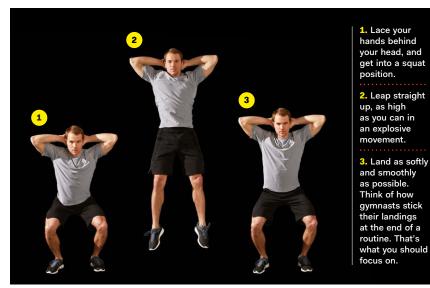
Blisters 101

Your hands feel like tenderised meat-now what?

n hindsight, maybe that third bucket of range balls was a mistake. It's okay, we all get a little overzealous at times. If the result of your practice session is a blister or three, here's a refresher on how to deal with them (so you can go hit more range balls). – RON KASPRISKE

- **1.** Drain with a sterile needle by piercing an edge, not the middle. Leave the layer of dead skin intact if possible.
- **2.** Dab antibiotic ointment on it.
- **3.** Place a padded bandage over the area. Moleskin works best if the blister is at the base of the fingers or on the palm.
- ▶ PREVENT DEFENCE Feel a tender spot? Before the blister occurs, cover it with thin athletic tape. You might look like Rocky, but you'll be able to last at least another round.

STICK THE LANDING In the July issue, Golf Digest fitness advisor Ben Shear unveiled an Eccentric Training programme for golfers that emphasises the often-ignored second half



of an exercise, such as the lowering of the weight in a bench press. Here's one more to try:

health."

penetrate the atmosphere.

But come summer, there's no

sun exposure directly on

the skin - without the use of sunscreen - is the key to getting an adequate amount of the wonder vitamin, says Dr Ara

Suppiah, health consultant to

Vitamin-D deficiency has

been linked to everything from depression to heart disease.

It also contributes to aging

issues such as diabetes and

don't get enough," Suppiah

says. "It's the No 1 abnormal blood test on tour." Suppiah

suggests getting tested at your

next physical. If you're deficient,

take supplements - especially

in the winter - but also expose

your skin to the sun for short

periods. "Sunscreen is a must

for golfers," Suppiah says, "but

you can't ignore the importance of sun exposure to your overall

bone diseases. "Even the pros

several PGA Tour pros.

excuse. Ten to 20 minutes of

New home for history

Southern African Golf Hall of Fame opens at V&A Waterfront.



he well-documented and preserved history of golf in Southern Africa has a new home at the Clock

Tower precinct of the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront in Cape Town, where the Mercedes-Benz Southern African Golf Hall of Fame opened in June.

Originally housed at the Oubaai resort near George, the 575-square-metre facility comprises the Hall of Fame wall of all 73 inductees, trophies, memorabilia, ancient clubs and accessories and a research library. It shares the space with a sports memorabilia company with apparel for sale with the Hall of Fame logo.

The Hall of Fame's existence owes everything to the dedicated work and contribution over many years of its founder Barry Cohen (below, left).

Entrance to the Hall of Fame is R65 for adults, R40 for senior citizens and under-18s, and a family of four pays R165. Open seven days a week from 10h00-18h00.

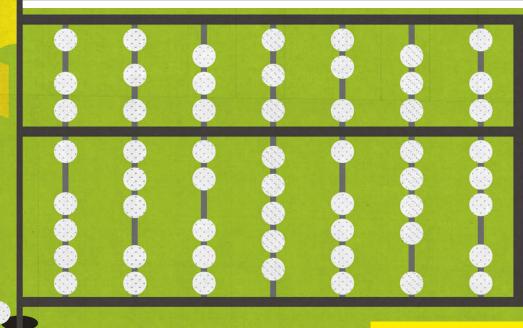












Count Them Up

See how well you know your golf maths



- You make a 4 on the fourth hole, but your playing partner writes down a 5. You sign and turn in the scorecard. What score did you make?
- In stroke play, you tee up a ball outside the teeing ground and hit a ball out-of-bounds. You then realise your error and re-tee inside the teeing ground and hit another shot O B. What do you lie?
- You hit your third shot from off the green, and it hits your opponent's ball at rest near the hole and trickles into the cup. Did you just make a 3?

- You're not sure if your tee shot is out-of-bounds, so you announce and play a provisional. That shot also might be O B, so you play another provisional. That shot is in play, but as you reach the out-of-bounds area, you find your original ball. What do you lie?
- You're just off the green in 3 and attempt a chip. Your club strikes the ball twice during the stroke, but the ball falls into the hole. What score did you make?
- Five holes into a tournament, you realise you've been carrying 15 clubs (one more than allowed). How many penalty strokes should you add to your score?
- You verify your scores for each hole are correct, add them up and turn in your scorecard for the club championship. You then realise you added wrong and turned in a 78 when you shot 77. What is your score?
- Your putt for a 5 stops on the lip of the hole. You quickly walk to the hole, address the ball within 10 seconds of reaching it, and are about to tap it in. Suddenly, the ball falls into the cup. Did you make a 5?

ANSWERS

- 1. 5 (RULE 6-6D). But if your playing partner put down a score lower than your 4, and you didn't correct it, you would be disqualified.
- 2. 4 (DECISION 11-4B/6). It's irrelevant that the first ball wound up out-of-bounds because it was played from outside the teeing ground. But you do get penalised two strokes. Then, when you hit it out-of-bounds from the teeing ground, that's a stroke-and-distance penalty.
- 3. Yes (RULE 19-5). A ball played from off the putting green is holed if it deflects off another ball at rest and into the cup.
- **4.** 1 (RULE 27-2). If the original is found within five minutes after you began to search for it, the two provisionals must be abandoned and the original ball is in play.
- **5.** 5 (RULE 14-4). Count the first stroke and add a penalty stroke (making two strokes in all).
- 6. 4 (EDIT TO RULE 4-4A). Two strokes at each of the first two holes at which you carried more than 14.
- 7. 77 (RULE 33-5). The tournament committee is responsible for totalling your individual hole scores.
- 8. No (DECISION 18-2B/10). You're given enough time to reach the hole without unreasonable delay, plus an additional 10 seconds to wait for the ball to fall into the hole without having to add an additional stroke. However, if you addressed the ball and it moves (grounding the club immediately behind or in front of it), Rule 18-2b overrides Rule 16-2. You would incur a penalty stroke, plus you must replace the ball on the lip because the ball moved after you addressed it. Assuming you then tapped in, you would have made a 7.



"Could you send a caddie to the 10th tee. please?"

My Swing Meets The A Swing

How I learned it by the book (and from David Leadbetter)

By David Owen



ne of my roles at Golf Digest is testing new ideas to find out whether adopting them will ruin your life. I've gone to golf school, changed equipment, taken putting lessons and tried to learn to swing like Moe Norman, among other things. My most successful project was my "midlife makeover," a decade ago, because in exchange for a few days of instruction, from Shelby Futch, I received 10 years (and counting!) of dramatically improved golf. Recently, the editors decided that I should put all that at risk by allowing David Leadbetter to help me learn his new A Swing - which you can read about in detail beginning on page 34 and in his book of the same name.

Submitting to Leadbetter isn't actually very risky. I watched him work with Nick Faldo on the range at The Belfry, in England, before the Ryder Cup in 1993. Faldo would take the club to the top of his backswing; Leadbetter would adjust the shaft's position by a centimetre or two; and Faldo would return the club to address and do it again, times a thousand. Watching them was unbelievably boring, and it can't have been thrilling for them, either. But Leadbetter had already helped Faldo become one of the game's all-time greats, and Faldo still had one green jacket to go.

I started my A Swing education in my living room, with Leadbetter's book. One reason golf is so hard is that you have to put your body in positions that don't feel the way they look, or look the way they feel. Leadbetter has always been creative at devising images and drills that help you find those positions anyway. I don't think I had ever truly understood the "pivot," for example, before doing a drill in the book in which you assume your address position, place your hands on your legs, and coil and uncoil your torso so that your arms "slide up and down your thighs in a piston-like motion." The book is filled with clear illustrations, but even without them I'd have understood. Another terrific drill is one that Leadbetter calls "push-palm," which teaches pretty much the same thing but with the hands in different positions.

After I'd absorbed as much of the book as I felt I could on my own, I spent most of an afternoon with Leadbetter, at a private club in Florida called The Concession (below). He explained that his new approach isn't entirely new, because it's the culmination of many years of semi-obsessive thinking about



how to simplify the parts of the golf swing that players at all levels struggle with."The key to the A Swing," he said, "is synchronisation" - a longtime theme of his. One of his goals is to eliminate the power-robbing, consistencykilling motions that most of us clutter our swings with, usually in an effort to hit the ball further or straighter. "It's all about getting the club on the right plane coming down," he said. The genuinely radical element of the A Swing is his belief that the simplest, most efficient way to do that is to keep the club on a very different plane going up. The resulting backswing looks like something a different teacher would try to correct, but it's so compact that at first you feel you can't possibly be working hard enough.

One of Leadbetter's hopes for the A Swing is that guys like me will be able to learn it without spending an (extremely expensive) afternoon with him - by reading the book, doing the drills, trying things at the range, watching videos and using apps that are still being tweaked. I'm not sure that goal is entirely realistic. I thought I had sort of figured out everything in my yard, before going to Florida, but the day after my lesson with Leadbetter I had sore muscles up and down both sides - making it clear to me that what I did with him was different from what I'd been doing at home. But I do agree that the book is a powerful tool, and that any player who reads it thoughtfully will gain from it. "It's not like you have to swallow the whole bottle," he told me, as he helped me get my wrists into position during my backswing."You can take a few of the pills. And there isn't one part of it that anyone can actually overdo."



One man-show

Strong-minded Danie does it his own way.

Interviewed by **Barry Havenga**



N BEING A SELF-SUFFICIENT PROFESSIONAL

I am a self-taught golfer who has never had formal lessons, just help from my father while growing up. I've always believed in myself and that by out-working everyone else, I'll always achieve in golf. Team Van Tonder is me and my fiancée Abigail. I live, play and practice at Ebotse, and don't feel the need for a swing or mental coach.

Danie van Tonder

AGE 24
BORN Sasolburg
RESIDES Ebotse Golf &
Country Estate, Benoni
CAREER Two-time Sunshine
Tour winner since gaining
card in 2012. Earnings of
R3.9 million, and second on
2014 Order of Merit, with
14 top-10s. Played in 2014
Nedbank Golf Challenge
and 2015 WGC-Cadillac
Championship in Miami.
Was the 2010 Golf Digest
Amateur of the Year.

>>> ON USING WINTER TO GET FIT AND STRONG

For me it's an advantage that we have two months without tournaments in winter. I played all 25 Sunshine Tour events last year but found that I couldn't maintain my fitness levels due to my practice regime. In June and July I was doing two-hour gym sessions in the mornings and evenings with a personal trainer while practising and playing in-between. I weighed 108 kilograms at the end of summer, then got down to 97kg by eating healthily. I am now 106kg – because muscle weighs more than fat!

>>> ON MAKING HIS NEDBANK GOLF CHALLENGE DEBUT

When I turned pro one of my goals was to play at Sun City within five years and I did it in four. It was a huge privilege to play in an event that I grew up watching every year on TV. What I learnt most from the week was watching the top players off the course, what they do in the gym, on the range, and how they conduct themselves at a tournament. The whole vibe was amazing. The top-ranked players show respect to their fellow competitors because they know everyone has earned their way in.



indow or aisle? Aisle. erson to call in a My fiancée Abigail. est match at Lord's or wickenham? Twickenham. First car? VW Scirocco urrent car? BMW 320i M avourite TV shows? Game of Thrones Chicago PD t round? 62 (six itions? I never use

a No 2 ball. I don't want to finish second. Best friends on tour? Jared Harvey, Steven Ferreira, Ulrich van den Berg, Trevor Fisher. on tour? Me! lost naturally gifted on our? Haydn Porteous.

Longest hitter on tour? Merrick Bremner. First thing you bought after first pay cheque a a pro? My first car (see above).

Who would you like to be stuck in a lift with, living ad? My grandfather. Rory McIlroy (joking!)

>>> ON ADJUSTING QUICKLY TO LIFE AS A PROFESSIONAL

I turned pro midway through 2011 and played the IGT Tour in Gauteng before finishing second at the 2012 Sunshine Tour Q School. The IGT Tour was good for my confidence, but you obviously learn more about travelling on the Sunshine Tour. I've always been able to adapt easily to new experiences and conditions. A lot of good amateurs struggle with this when they first get out on tour. Most importantly, I have always put the practice hours in. I honestly believe that some rookies, after getting their card, don't practice as hard as they used to.

>>> ON TRYING TO BYPASS Q SCHOOL TO SECURE A **EUROPEAN TOUR CARD**

I've made €112 301 from

seven European Tour events (as an affiliate member) as of July and will have two more big-money tournaments - the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship, plus the WGC-HSBC Champions in China - to make enough to secure a card without enduring Qualifying School. I'm currently 119th on the Race to Dubai standings. The top 115 will be exempt for 2016.

>>> ON PLAYING IN A WORLD **GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

My first trip to America was in March for the WGC-Cadillac Championship in Miami. I qualified for it by finishing second on the Sunshine Tour Order of Merit. Trump National at Doral – The Blue Monster - is an absolute beast of a golf course. It's ridiculously long and the wind pumped

In the Bag

Driver: Titleist 915 D3, 7.5 degrees Fairways: Titleist 915F (13.5 & 18)Irons (4-PW): Titleist **CB 714** Wedges: Titleist Vokey SM5 (50, 58, 63) **Putter: Titleist Scotty**

Cameron Newport 2

Ball: Titleist Pro V1x

the whole week. There's no course in South Africa that compares with it. If you can't drive it 310 metres on the par-5s you can't reach the green in two. That's why Dustin Johnson, J B Holmes and Bubba Watson finished first, second and third. I played practice rounds with Charl, Louis and Branden, who were helpful knowing it was my debut. I enjoyed playing with Ian Poulter in the final round. He was friendly and talkative.



STEYN CITY is a lifestyle experience >>

hile golf is often a strong motivator for those who invest in a home on a golf estate, Steyn City is about much more than that. Golf is just one of many activities offered at this sprawling 800-hectare multi-billion rand lifestyle resort in Gauteng.

Steyn City, situated north of Fourways, midway between Johannesburg and Pretoria, provides the opportunity to live in a country-like environment away from the hustle and bustle of big-city life, yet close to major business and commercial centres.

Steyn City will be the benchmark for developments to come. The most expansive property on the continent, this world-class city offers a unique style of living that is unprecedented and unparalleled.

This prime property offers every amenity one could desire. Over and above being home to a Nicklaus design golf course, pristine in its manicured state, there is an activity for every member of the family.

From fishing to a fossil park, sand pits, a mountain bike track, stabling and skate parks, fibre to the home neighbourhood, to a city piazza, clubhouses, resort pools, river walks, owl houses and outdoor fitness areas, not to mention squash and tennis courts, there are over 100 remarkable reasons to make Steyn City your home.

An extensive network of walkways, bike trails, creeks, brooks and open spaces connect the various nodes to create a whole. For those who love to horse-ride, there is plenty of room for horses, and the newly designed Steyn City Equestrian Centre, managed by Springbok showjumper Johan Lotter, will be opening in the spring.

Steyn City is a haven for sports enthusiasts, and the physically fit and active-minded. Soccer pitches, nature trails and gym equipment are placed strategically along open green belts and the Jukskei River, and a skate park provides an energetic adrenalin rush. The recreation and leisure facilities are on another level and the lifestyle resort is a children's and adult's paradise.

Children are able to interact with the environment, and as such, the recreation areas are positioned in locations where the landscape is intriguing and unique and presents an opportunity for children



IS SIX TIMES THE SIZE OF SANDTON CITY

to absorb nature. As well as colourful, larger-than-life play obstacles, there are numerous giant sculptures that are natural enjoyment areas for picnicking or reading a book in the shade.

Steyn City has been designed with only one main arterial ring road circling its periphery, keeping traffic away from the residential core. Smaller crescent and cul-de-sac roads feed off this towards residential villages, or pods, linked by a 15-kilometre pedestrianised promenade that meanders through the resort, with coffee shops, play areas and outdoor gym stations planned at designated points.

Says Steyn City Properties CEO Giuseppe Plumari: "We've spent many years perfecting our vision of what it is going to mean to live at Steyn City. This hasn't been a fast-track project that we



launched as a big idea and very little else. This has been a carefully thought out and designed endeavour."

Douw Steyn and Plumari shared a vision to create an environment that mirrored the ideals of a time long past; a space where children could play and roam freely in a safe environment and ride their bicycles comfortably with no fear of traffic flow; a place where individuals could work and have no need to commute; and where the habitat encouraged a sense of com-

A 15KM
PROMENADE
MEANDERS
THROUGH THE
RESORT, WITH
COFFEE SHOPS,
PLAY AREAS AND
OUTDOOR GYM
STATIONS.

munity, neighbourliness and an interaction with one's immediate surroundings.

Designed for the ultimate lifestyle, the first thing you'll notice when you enter through the gatehouses is the feeling of wide open space. Steyn City is six times the size of Sandton City, four times the size of Monaco, and two-and-a-half times the size of Central Park in New York. Simply put, it's South Africa's largest playground for adults and children alike.

For more information visit www.steyncity.co.za









www.golfcarassociates.co.za





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About Face

How wedges regained their edge



hen the USGA rolled back the rules on grooves starting in 2010, the fear was that the ability to get short shots close to the hole would suffer. But five years later, the data suggests otherwise. The PGA Tour averages for scoring, proximity to the hole from the rough and scrambling (even at U.S. Opens) are all slightly better than before the rule change (which restricted a groove's volume and edge sharpness). Sure, tour players have adapted, but designers have, too, rethinking head shapes, surface roughness and sole grinds. Here are six interesting examples.

- MIKE STACHURA

1 CALLAWAY MACK DADDY 2 PM GRIND

▶ Phil Mickelson's input led to the high-toe shape and grooves all across the face for more friction on flop shots. **PRICE R1 999**

RTX 2.0 WIDE SOLE

▶ It has the standard 2.0's sharp groove and friction elements, but the big bottom mixes less bounce with more stability through the turf. Special Order

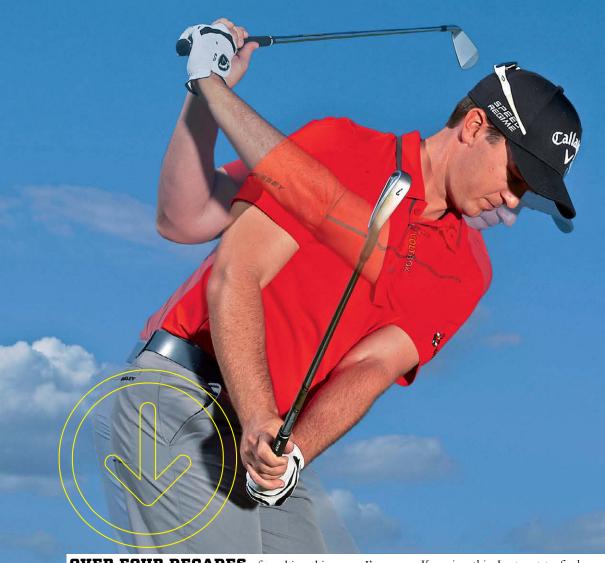
tool, designers chose an electro-chemical process to form sharper . edges on a durable nickel-cobalt face insert.

4 BEN HOGAN

▶ The variety of lofts (every single degree from 48 to 63) is bolstered by a sole with more bounce on the front and less on



The Golf Life EQUIPMENT

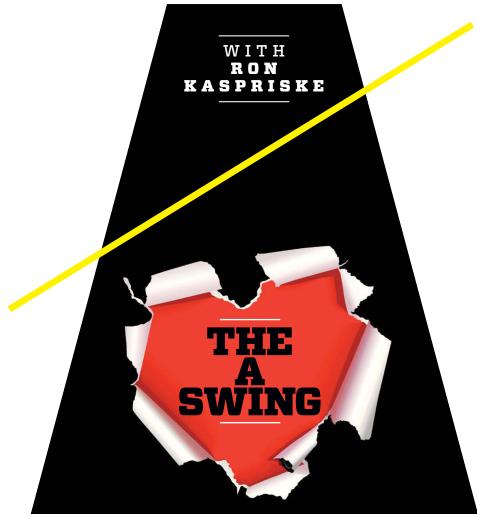


OVER FOUR DECADES of teaching this game, I've come to realise that the majority of golfers struggle to consistently play well because of issues with the backswing. For most, the conventional backswing is difficult to master and repeat, and when it goes bad, so goes the ability to synchronise the arms and the body during the swing – the most important factor in hitting consistent golf shots. If the synchronicity is off, the downswing becomes a rescue mission to get the clubface squarely on the ball. Top players through talent and practice can get by with compensations, but most golfers, if they aren't in sync, really struggle.

Knowing this, I set out to find a way to make the move to the top simpler, more efficient and easier to repeat, so the downswing could be largely a reactionary event. After all, the downswing happens in the blink of an eye. If you can get into a good position at the top, you'll have a much better chance of being in a good position when the clubhead meets the ball.

It took several years to conceive, study, design, refine and test – including putting it through the paces at a biomechanist's lab – but I'm happy to say I've developed a new way to swing that does make the backswing simpler. And that helps improve the efficien-



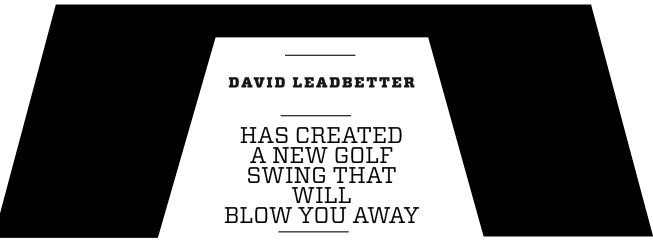


cy of the entire motion. I'm convinced this new technique will help a great many people play better golf. I call it the A Swing.

The "A" stands for "alternative," because it's great for players struggling with the conventional swing. My new book, *The A Swing: The Alternative Approach to Great Golf,* details what makes the swing effective and how easy it is to implement. In the meantime, I wanted to give you, the Golf Digest reader, a preview of what it's all about. I've had a long relationship with this magazine, and golf aficionados like you are a big reason I still find joy in teaching and coming up with better ways to play the game.

Great players of the past have displayed traits of the A Swing. In fact, it's a culmination of what I've learned during my entire career. It borrows from things I used to discuss with world No 1s Nick Price and Nick Faldo, as well as current players, like Lydia Ko. It also stems from studying the motions used in other sports, such as baseball and tennis. And as I mentioned earlier, there's real science behind it.

So now that we've got the drumroll out of the way, let's look at the A Swing. If you're struggling, give it a try. You might just find your A game with the A Swing.



1. ADDRESS

▶ The A Swing starts from a fairly standard setup. One difference is, the right foot is pulled back, creating a closed stance. Everything else is aligned parallel with the target line. Closing the stance helps get the club on the correct plane in the downswing.



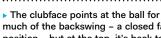
3. BACKSWING

As the left arm reaches parallel to the ground, the right wrist is hinging and moving the shaft onto a steep angle. This is a real difference of the A Swing - working the shaft into an inverted position.



2. TAKEAWAY

▶ The first move off the ball is very simple and is initiated largely by the core muscles coiling the torso away from the target. The clubhead tracks back outside the hands, and the right arm stays above the left.



4. TOP OF THE SWING

much of the backswing - a closed face position - but at the top, it's back to neutral. The A Swing grip (see next page) in large part controls what the face is doing. The backswing is shorter than that of the conventional swing, but testing shows no loss of power.









FIRST LOOK

THE A SWING START TO FINISH

ere are two views of my student Ryan Blaum demonstrating the A Swing. Ryan plays on the Web.com Tour and has adopted the A Swing to great effect.

If you do a quick scan above, you might think it looks a lot like the conventional swing. In many spots it does, as I haven't strayed too far from things I've always taught. But if you look closer, you'll notice Ryan doing things that are far from conventional.

His backswing is much steeper than you see with most pros. His arm swing is shorter,

5. DOWNSWING

▶ The beauty of the A Swing is that the downswing is essentially reactionary. Before the backswing is complete, the lower body makes a small shift towards the target. This helps the club drop onto a shallower, more horizontal plane, like the shaft angle at address. Picture a baseball batter stepping into a pitch. It's a fluid motion: Weight shifts forward, club drops.



► The right forearm does not roll over the left as it does in a conventional swing. Eventually the right wrist releases into a bowed position as if you've just thrown a ball sidearm. At the same time, the left wrist returns to a cupped position, much like it was during the backswing.











6. IMPACT

As the torso starts to unwind, the weight fully shifts to the front side. The left forearm and right palm drive towards the ground to square the clubface. At impact, the right wrist is cupped, or bent back, and the left wrist is flat and facing the target. The hands are well ahead of the clubhead.

8. FINISH

➤ The finish position looks similar to that of a conventional follow-through. The body rotates as much as it can and then the arms and hands wind the club around the back. It's balanced and relaxed.









but he is fully wound. There is no conscious effort to get the club swinging inside and around the body, even though the left arm is across the chest.

At the top, the shaft points to the right, which differs from most instruction. This backswing, in traditional terms,

would not be called "on plane." But I'm convinced it makes it easier to drop the club on the correct plane coming down. At halfway down, you can see the shaft has shallowed considerably from the backswing. It's the opposite of the millions of steep, over-the-top downswings

we see. A shallow downswing ensures that the club approaches from the inside, and then it's just squaring the face to hit a draw.

This motion adds "swing" to the swing. It's natural, and makes synchronising the downswing easy, leading to greater consistency.

Adapted from THE A SWING:

THE ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO

GREAT GOLF. Copyright © 2015 by David Leadbetter with Ron Kaspriske.



ESSENTIALS

THE A SWING STARTER KIT

TAKING YOUR

▶ To perform it correctly, the A Swing requires a special grip. I call it the prayer grip. Why? If you hold the club up with this grip so the shaft is pointing to the sky, the hands and wrists should have a symmetrical, slightly cupped look - like you're praying. This grip allows you to hinge and cock the wrists without rotating the clubface open going back and to generate maximum speed at impact as you release the right hand. You can hold the club with an interlocking, overlapping or baseball grip. Here's what you need to do:

1. Set the handle of the club diagonally across the fingers and just into the palm of the left hand. The grip should sit against the crook of the forefinger. The first knuckle should protrude as if resting on a trigger.

2. Now put the right hand on top

of the left so the lifeline in the right palm covers the left thumb. Wrap the fingers of the right hand around the grip, and let the right forefinger separate a touch from the middle finger so it also appears to be on a

trigger. The thumbs should be parallel to each other and appear stacked.

3. Check the forefinger lines.

The base of the left forefinger (imagine a line from the big knuckle to the first joint) should point to the right eye. The base of the right forefinger should point to the left eye.

4. Hold onto the club lightly (estimate a 3 or 4 on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the tightest). Sense almost no pressure on the middle section of the grip. But feel a little squeeze with your fingers at the top and bottom.



PRACTISING THE PIVOT

How the body winds going back and unwinds as the club moves down and through impact is the lifeblood of the A Swing. It's the key to synchronisation, and being in sync is what makes the A Swing special. The body creates energy, then sequentially passes

that energy to the arms, hands, club and finally to the ball. The easiest way to learn how to pivot is without a club, because it focuses your attention on how the body should move and not what's going on with the swinging elements. Follow these steps:

1. Get into the address posture

without a club, and rest the hands on the sides of the stomach as if giving yourself a hug. The spine should be tilted slightly away from the target.

2. Simulate the backswing while keeping the arms

folded. As the upper body winds back and you feel pressure building in the right heel, the left shoulder tilts towards the ground and the right hip rises slightly.

3. Transition into the downswing by unwinding the lower body towards the target with a slight lateral shift as you are still winding the

torso away from the target. Feel the body weight move to the front part of the left foot.

4. Just like in a traditional downswing, rotate the hips and torso towards the target. Feel the downward pressure in the feet moving into the left heel. Finish in balance, up on the toes of the right foot.

UNDERSTANDING THE V PLANE

▶ Instructors have been forever telling golfers they should keep the club on the same plane going back and coming down to hit solid, straight shots. I believe this is too difficult for most people to do on a

consistent basis. It's much easier to go from a steep swing plane on the backswing to a shallow one on the downswing. This notion is backed, in part, by the swings of some of the alltime greats, such

as Jack Nicklaus and Johnny Miller. They had varying degrees of a steepto-shallow move. This shape also gives the swing a great flow. The shaft drops from a steep position going back so that

by halfway down it's essentially parallel to the plane that the club started on at address. The shaft positions at halfway back and halfway down form the letter V (below), so I call it the V plane. Here's how it works:

1. Swinging back,

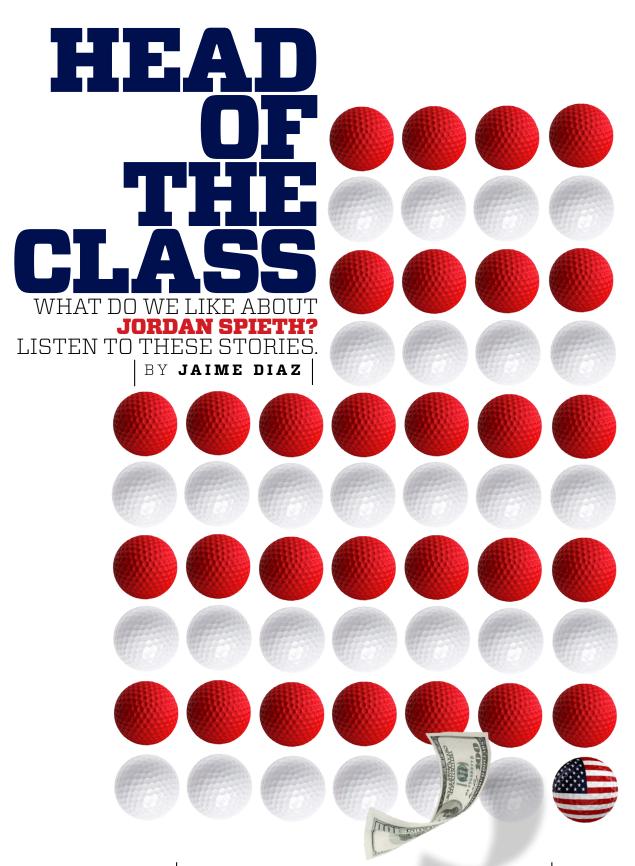
the left arm stays

pinned to the torso and the right arm remains above it. The right wrist hinges the club up steeply. The left wrist remains cupped, and the right biceps pinch the right side of the chest. At halfway back, the shaft angle nearly matches the spine.

2. Coming down,

the lower body glides towards the target - the first move down - which helps the club fall onto a shallower plane. Then the torso rotates forward and the right elbow drops towards the right hip, setting up the most solid strikes of your life.





PHOTOGRAPHS BY WALTER IOOSS JR





inadequate for how the public has responded to Jordan Spieth. There have been many golfers who have captivated us right away: Greg Norman, Phil Mickelson and, of course, Tiger Woods. But even Arnold Palmer wasn't embraced so quickly and completely. It goes beyond Spieth winning the Masters and US Open, or being 21 years old, fresh-faced, well-built, bright and polite. Or possessing the competitor's dangerous edge, a Right Stuff toughness that makes the historically inclined Ben Crenshaw think of Wyatt Earp. All those things are essential, but they aren't at the centre of Spieth's popularity. It's instructive that unlike all those who have been liked a lot, it appears that nobody *doesn't* like Spieth. Despite being labelled the Golden Child – a handle Woods didn't rebuff, but which Spieth does, if only because he knows it's made for the jealous to mock – true antipathy for the kid can't be found. Like all game-changers, Spieth benefits from timing. Just as Palmer was a welcome change from the grim excellence of Ben Hogan, so is Spieth a respite from the distant reign of Woods.

"Tiger's time of domination was overall great for golf but difficult in terms of interaction with fans, sponsors and media," says Seth Waugh, former CEO of Deutsche Bank, sponsor of the Deutsche Bank Championship. "In his defence, as the biggest guy on the planet, he felt he needed a shield to protect himself from an invasive world. Everybody assumed that because he was winning everything, the model of focusing only on your game and not really engaging with people was necessary to be a champion.

"From a player's perspective, it was the perfect excuse not to do the harder stuff, like stick around to sign autographs. But then the financial crisis hit, and it became clear that the harder stuff was a big part of why a corporation would spend \$10 million to put on a week of golf. When Tiger and the notion of universal entitlement simultaneously fell from grace, players realised another model might work better, not just for themselves, but for the game."

The leaders of the new/old way are Rory McIlroy, Rickie Fowler and Spieth, who blend accessibility, affability and performance. But even as McIlroy has changed the tone from the Woods era, it's Spieth who seems more disposed to asserting a transformational power like Palmer's. Which gets to Spieth's central allure: He's a giver. Certainly to his charitable foundation, but also – in what's so commonly considered a necessarily selfish sport – of himself. Even before Jordan's 14-year-old sister, Ellie, was born with a neurologi-

cal disorder, his elders were examples of sacrifice and empathy. Spieth considers growing up in a home attuned to its youngest member's special needs a gift that will continue to inform his public life.

When thanked for his time at the end of interviews, Spieth has an endearing way of responding with an upbeat "Of course," but those words will get harder to say. And though his answers to questions have remained refreshingly expansive, post-Masters mania has given him an acute awareness that being asked to constantly talk about himself is a bottomless pit. "My speaking about humility is very difficult, because that wouldn't be humility," he said last year, and that impressively grasped paradox will get more complex.

So we're going to give Spieth a break and have others who have had telling moments with him do the talking.



• • • ROGER MALTBIE, NBC/ Golf Channel on-course reporter

"At the Houston Open, he had a one-stroke lead, and I saw him on Sunday morning before the round and asked him if he'd been on an Easter-egg hunt. He said with a big smile, 'Yeah, and Ellie got every one of them.' And I thought, *There's a kid who looks in the mirror and likes what he sees.* Because that's important to feeling like you deserve to win. It matters under the gun."

• • JOE CHEMYCZ Web.com Tour media official

"In 2013, Jordan didn't advance in the second-stage (2012 PGA Tour) Q school and was out with no status. He played a couple of our tournaments and did pretty well. He needed another \$5 000 to get temporary conditional membership, which would have given him unlimited sponsor exemptions at a time he was facing a lot of unknowns and no guarantees. It was a big deal. Our next tournament was in Santiago, Chile, but he had accepted a sponsor's exemption to the PGA Tour event in Puerto Rico for the same week. He knew what the smart play was: tell Puerto Rico you're sorry. But he looked me in the eye and said, 'Joe, I can't go to Chile. I gave (Puerto Rico) my word.' It



was about the most mature, responsible thing I've seen a young guy do. He went to Puerto Rico and finished second, and in a couple of weeks he had his status on the PGA Tour. They say character is destiny."

• • • SETH WAUGH

"All you need to know about him is that he chose Michael Greller as his caddie. Jordan could have got a fancy caddie with a big name, but he went with a sixth-grade maths teacher because he felt like this guy could make him a better person more than a better player. And not many guys do that. Michael is at times a friend, at times an employee, at times a teacher – about life, not necessarily about golf - and at times a parent. Jordan's got some quirks, and he went through his 20-year-old period of getting overly angry. Michael knows that, understands that, and can bring him back at the right time, in the right way. But boy, they're having fun, like two best friends on a road trip."

• • • MICHAEL GRELLER Spieth's caddie since 2012

"Last year in Denver during the FedEx Cup, my sister Katie came out to watch me caddie for the first time. On Saturday our mom called and said Katie's 3-year-old, Daphne, was in the middle of a febrile seizure. It was very upsetting and emotional. I called Jordan, and I could barely talk. He picked up on the intensity of the situation and just took over, getting us on a flight to Seattle that left in a couple of hours, organised the ride to the airport, everything.

"By the time we got to the airport, Daphne had stabilised, so I ended up staying after putting my sister and my wife on the plane. The next day, on the first tee, instead of the JS logo he usually puts on his golf balls, he pulled out three balls on which he'd written 'Daph.' He birdied the first hole with a new ball, rotated a new one on 7 and made birdie again. On 13, with another new ball, he had a 35-footer for birdie, and I said, 'I know where this is going.' And he made it. He's got a flair for that kind of stuff."

• • • TONY ROMO Dallas Cowboys quarterback

"Since he was about 16, we've played around town and in a couple of tournaments. He has a great feel for people and situations. After a game, he knows when to send a text, and when not to.

"Our bond is a love of competition. I consider him an athlete who happens to

play golf. I think that's why he's kept getting better. Even though golf is about repetition, from playing other sports, Jordan knows how to adapt and invent with touch and feel.

"He gives me two shots a side. He's got no problem talking trash, but in this cocky/respectful way, which is hard to do. He'll birdie the last hole to win the bet and say, 'Sorry I had to do that to you.' I love being around him."

• • JIM MACKAY caddie for Phil Mickelson

"Jordan really gets respect for his persona on the course. He has a way of removing himself from the big picture and just breaking down each shot as the task at hand. It's really hard to do, and it makes him a total badass.

"We were paired with him when he shot 62 the last day at Deutsche Bank in 2013, trying to make the Presidents Cup team. When he's going good, he has this way of giving off this feeling that he's definitely going to make a putt when he's reading it. He had about a 40-footer on the last hole for eagle, and Phil and I are watching him, and we both say, 'No way he's missing this.' And he drained it right in the middle. Phil went right to the locker room and called (captain) Fred Couples, who traditionally had not picked young players, and told him, 'Listen, you are out of your mind if you don't pick this kid.' And Fred listened."

O O DONALD TRUMP

"I first got to know Jordan in 2009, when he won his first USGA Junior, at Trump National Bedminster. He was 15. He's got the qualities a person needs for success: He loves what he does, he never gives up, he can handle pressure, and he has great knowledge of his subject. He's got great people skills, but that has nothing to do with winning – I know a lot of champions who don't have people skills. In fact, one



of the reasons they're great champions is because they don't care about anybody else. But Jordan is very different, because he does care about people, and that fits into a nice way of being. Also, it opens the way for more money. Jordan is going to make a lot of money."

• • • ERNIE ELS co-founder, Els for Autism

"Jordan is similar to my daughter, Samantha, who has a younger brother, Ben, who has severe autism. Jordan's mom and sister walked with us when we played the first two rounds at Houston. Ellie's so crazy about her brother, and you could see the intensity that he played with – he becomes a little warrior. I believe that, in time, Jordan's going to do a lot of big things in the USA."

• • • STEVE WILMOT, tournament director, RBC Heritage

"After he won the Masters and was going to New York for the media tour, a lot of people thought he'd plead burnout and withdraw from Hilton Head, but I had a good feeling that he'd come. Jordan appreciates that we offered him a sponsor's exemption in 2013, and he upheld his commitment, only asking to opt out of the pro-am. He looked tired when I saw him on Wednesday, but he got some rest and helped us out with the sponsor reception on Thursday night. He had shot 74, and he was almost apologising, saying, 'I've got to go low tomorrow.' Well, he shot 62, which just re-energised the whole Spieth Factor for the weekend. When he saw me, he was smiling, giving me the feeling he was as pleased for the tournament as he was for himself."

• • • DAVID GANG, CEO, Perfect Sense Digital; board member, Jordan Spieth Family Foundation

"Jordan's demeanour and style is so much older than he is. I'm older than his father, but when I speak to Jordan, I always feel like I'm speaking to a peer. At the same time, I can still see the young kid in his eyes, which he accesses when he speaks to my son, Matthew, who is 14 years old and a Down-syndrome kid. When we do events for Jordan's foundation, we bring in Special Olympic athletes and wounded veterans to play golf as part of a pro-am event. Jordan spends that extra time to talk to them, and he has the natural intellect and the innocence to engage with the oldest and the youngest. He's energised

by the ability to raise money and contribute back to society, and he's going to be in a conversation with whomever is in the room."

● ● ● BOB JULIUS

Jordan's maternal grandfather

"Starting when he was about 8, Jordan would visit in the summer. There was the eighth hole at Olde Point (Golf & Country Club in Hampstead, North Carolina), and we said, 'Hit from the other side of the water,' and he said, 'No, I want to go over,' and of course he did. Very determined, confident, just a steady ship all the time.

"He loved his grandmother, Ginny, who he called Mooma. She and I had six kids. She had a brain aneurysm when Chris (Jordan's mother) was 4 years old, and she had to use braces after that. The kids didn't think of her as handicapped. It was a hard thing; we did the best we could. She always laughed, she was my inspiration, and we stuck together until she passed in 2012. You know, 'for better or worse,' we believed in that. So I don't want to take any credit for anything, but if what the kids saw was a good example, then I'm glad.

"It's wonderful to see how the whole family is with Ellie. She sang happy birthday to me the other day, and it's so gratifying that she could do that and know the words, that she's come so far. So has Jordan. Thrilling, what he's done. You know, I had my knee replaced last July, and it wasn't healing, but when I got out of the car at the Masters, the pain was gone and hasn't come back. The doctor said it must have been adrenalin, and I must still be living on it."

ROSALIND FUNDERBURGH

founder and director, Vanguard Preparatory School in Dallas

"It's not uncommon for siblings of special-needs children to feel left out or slighted or less parented, and that can cause dysfunction. And then you see other siblings who embrace it and become more mature. A lot depends on whether the parents educated the other siblings. Even before Ellie entered kindergarten here, Chris and Shawn did that with Jordan and his brother, Steven.

"What Jordan says about Ellie's effect on his life is valid. When you have to practise patience, generosity, kindness and accountability every day, all day long with a family member, that's a gift, even though it might not always feel like it. But it breeds a capacity to care and be thoughtful of others.

"When Jordan volunteered for a year with Ellie's class during his senior year in high school, he was a natural, which isn't common. Because new relationships with special-needs kids can often be uncomfortable both ways. But Jordan showed grace and kindness and real interest in the gentlest way. He would play board games with them, he would read with them, shoot baskets with them, and he connected. There were times I'd see Ellie suddenly get up from her chair and run over and throw her arms around him and say, 'Oh, Jordan, I just love you.' Which says it all." G



HOW JORDAN CURED ME OF TIGER WOODS

BY THOMAS FRIEDMAN

I happened to be in Berlin when the Golf Digest editors invited me to contribute to this project, and I happened to share what I intended to write with Andreas Kluth, Berlin bureau chief for The Economist. After I told him that I wanted to watch Jordan Spieth's every shot and step at the Masters and did not want to watch a second more of Tiger Woods, Kluth told me there was actually an Italian word that summed up everything I was trying to say: sprezzatura. It means the ability to make something very difficult seem effortless, if not fun.

I thought, That's exactly what I saw in Spieth's performance at Augusta: sprezzatura! It was there in every lengthy putt he holed, in the near-impossible chips he got close, and in the critical long-iron shots he lofted that landed like butterflies. They were all delivered with a seeming effortlessness – and savoured by him with obvious joy. It all invited you in, made you want to stay with him and pull for him – savouring his victory as if partly your own, while being in awe of its difficulty, knowing that if you had 100 tries at his flop shot to that back flagstick on 18 in the third round, you never could have got your ball inside where he put his on one try.

One of my regular golf partners and I always make a \$50 Masters bet. I took Rory, he took Jordan. But from the first round I found myself rooting for Jordan – even though it was going to cost me \$50. That's what *sprezzatura* does to a man!

And then there was Tiger Woods. I actually would have paid the people at CBS \$50 to not show me any of Tiger's shots. Unfortunately, they insisted on showing most of them, and what you saw was whatever is the opposite of *sprezzatura*: Every shot or putt looked laboured to me, even the seemingly effortless, and he quite obviously took no joy, nor broadcast any, from most of his good shots; they were just taken for granted. At the same time, his anger, including one particularly foul expletive, in the wake of his bad shots made you want to look away in embarrassment – for him. He never once appeared to be having fun playing, and so it should be little wonder why I was having no fun watching. Each of his interviews looked just as laboured as his driver. You could see the bubble over his head, saying: Get me out of here.

I have to say, this Masters cured me of Tiger Woods. I am not interested anymore in his game, in his swing, in his latest swing coach, in his personal life – in anything he does – because it brings me no joy. The only thing he said that I enjoyed was after his final round, when he told his CBS interviewer that he would not be playing again the next week.

Honestly, I don't like hitting people when they're down, and I certainly take no joy in seeing him decline. No one can take away from Tiger that he is one of the greatest players to ever play this game. But it is so obvious that the hitch in Tiger's swing today is not in his takeaway, it's in his soul. The only teacher he needs is one who will tell him to stop looking at his swing on tape and just look at his demeanour in a mirror. If he ever again rediscovers his joy in this game, and learns to share it with those of us watching, the effortlessness will follow. I hope it happens while he still has the physical skills to win, but until then, CBS, please keep your cameras focused on that kid from Texas with the *sprezzatura*.

Contributing Editor Thomas L Friedman is a three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning foreign-affairs columnist for The New York Times





I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING:

When I say "be the boss of your ball," you figure I want you to yell what I'm talking about. Being the boss means getting the ball to do what you want it to do. Like floating in the air and landing softly, or banking off a mound and rolling out like a putt, or taking a couple of hops and checking up stone dead next to the flag. And once you're on the green, it's about tracking to the hole with the right blend of speed and break. If you can control the ball in these situations, you're going to shoot lower scores. Here are a few of my shortgame secrets. We'll put that ball to work for you. -with ron kaspriske

FLOAT IT

To save my par from right of the 18th green on Saturday at the Masters, I needed to loft the ball high and land it with very little rollout. When I want to float the ball in the air like that, I set up in a wide stance and play it about middle. I lay the club wide open, meaning the face of my 60-degree wedge points straight up. The wider stance keeps me stable so I can make an aggressive swing (opposite page). That helps get the ball up.

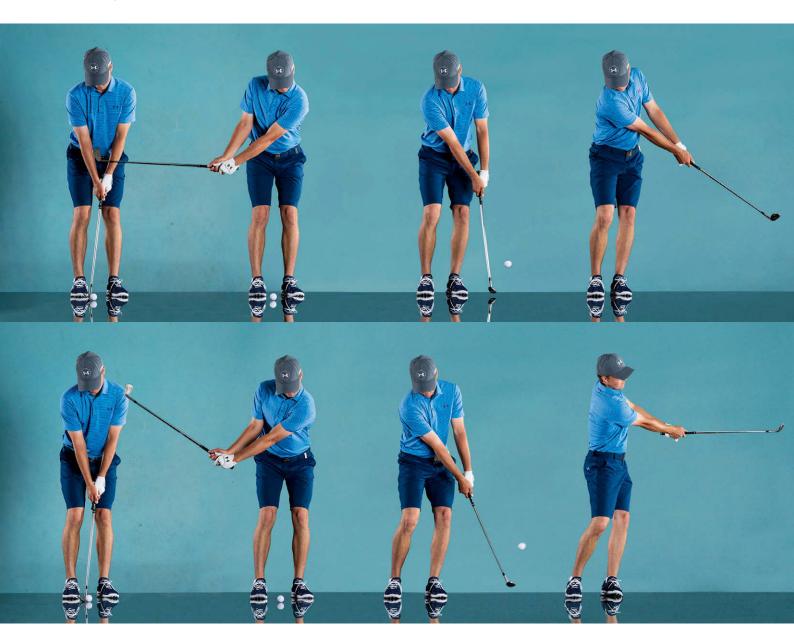
The open face adds loft, too, provided I can maintain that loft through impact. How I do that is the secret to pulling off this shot. I use a little hand-and-wrist action just as the club is getting to the ball. It happens in a flash, but what I'm trying to do is slide the clubface under the ball a split second before my hands pass over it. This ensures that the extra loft you start with at address is still there at impact. Get it right, and the ball comes off high and soft. A word of caution: This is a real finesse play, so you'll have to practise it before you can start hitting it on command.

'TO SPIN IT, YOU NEED SPEED AND A CRISP STRIKE.'

BUMP IT

Another way to add some finesse around the green is to bump your ball into a hill and use the slope to kill the speed. This works well if you're short-sided and the flag is too close to the edge of the green to risk a high shot. To bump the ball, I play it close to my back foot and use a lower-lofted wedge, like my 52 (below). These adjustments keep the ball down. I also favour my front foot: I'd say my weight is 70 percent left during the swing.

The key to bumping the ball is to strike it before the club hits the ground. You can get away with hitting a little behind the ball if you're trying to flop it, but you need solid contact here. You want to feel like you're driving the clubhead down at impact. Combine that with the ball being back and your weight forward, and the shot will squirt out low, lose some heat on the hill and roll up to that tucked pin.



CHECK IT

The coolest way to control your ball is to fly it in low and get it to grab after a couple of bounces. I use this technique when I have a lot of green to work with. I take my 60-degree wedge, open the face slightly at address, and set the ball about middle in my stance to make sure I catch it clean (above). Going back, I hinge my wrists, then try to maintain a little

of that hinge coming down. My hands should be a touch closer to the target than my clubhead at impact.

Here's a trick to put the brakes on the ball: Keep the clubhead close to the ground for as long as you can after the strike – that gives the grooves a chance to really grip the ball and create backspin. If you swing up too soon, you'll either hit the shot too high or make poor contact. To spin it, you need speed and a crisp strike, so turn your body through to face the target.



HOLE IT

Hopefully you got the ball to do what you wanted on the chip or pitch, so all that's left is a tap-in. But if you still have work to do, here's what you need to remember: You can't determine how much a putt will break until you figure out how hard you're going to hit it. That might sound obvious, but I see a ton of putts come up short because the golfer paid too much attention to the slope of the green and not enough to the speed.

On breaking putts, walk along the low side of the line and try to figure out the speed first. When you get over the ball, take a few extra looks down the line to lock in your distance. Picture the path the ball will need to take at that speed, and pick a spot about midway between you and the hole on that path - like a blemish on the green. With good speed, a ball that rolls over that spot will funnel right into the cup.







BY RON SIRAK





URNING POINTS USUALLY DON'T WALK UP, SLAP YOU IN THE FACE AND SHOUT,

"This is important – pay attention!" More often, they're recognised after the fact. The accomplishments of Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan and even Jack Nicklaus look bigger now than they did at the time, the appreciation growing with the years. But occasionally, a moment occurs with such sudden brilliance that it amounts to a face slap. When Tiger Woods won the 1997 Masters by 12 strokes at the age of 21, it was one of those moments. And so, too, it seems was the victory this year by 21-year-old Jordan Spieth at Augusta National Golf Club. "There are certain tournaments when we know we're watching the beginning of a new era," says Casey Alexander, director of research and special-situations analyst for golf stocks at Gilford Securities Inc. "And clearly, that was true in this Masters." Like Woods, Spieth won people over not just with his golf but with his essence. Woods was a young, dynamic man of colour in a staid, white sport. And that was a refreshing change for golf.

Spieth emerges now as a similarly refreshing change: a young, dynamic new-age champion. Quite simply, Spieth slipped into a green jacket and the role as one of the most marketable athletes in all of sports – in fact, one of the most marketable in all of entertainment.

Call him the \$25 Million Man – at the very least. That's the new base for his yearly off-course income, multiple agents and marketing experts tell Golf Digest. That, combined with his on-course winnings, could jump Spieth from No 16 this year on the Golf Digest 50 allencompassing money list to as high as No 3 in the 2016 ranking, trailing only Woods and Phil Mickelson.

The significance of Spieth's Masters victory was that it extended his brand beyond the world of golf to the public at large – especially a younger, hipper crowd obsessed not

so much with sports as with celebrity.

According to the Celebrity DBI, which measures consumer perception of 3 600 celebrities for the promotions and marketing agency The Marketing Arm, 19 percent of consumers knew who Spieth was in mid-March, before the Masters. On April 16, after the victory at Augusta, his consumer awareness was 35 percent. (There's room for growth there: Tiger is known by 97 percent.)

In overall appeal/likability, Spieth went from No 1 500 to No 129, ahead of Tina Fey (134) and Jack Nicholson (135). In aspiration (think:"I want to be

like Mike"), Spieth went from No 333 to No 4, behind only Tom Hanks, Bill Gates and Kate Middleton. In endorsement value, Spieth went from No 529 to No 5, behind Hanks, Morgan Freeman, Betty White and Michael Jordan, and ahead of Arnold Palmer, Angelina Jolie and Sofia Vergara.

"When it comes to the sports-marketing checklist, Spieth seemingly checks all the boxes," says David Carter, a principal for The Sports Business Group and a professor at the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California. "He's competitive, a strong communicator and

appears to fully appreciate what he has and what he represents to the sport. Roll up all of these attributes, including the fact that he's likely to be on the scene for a very long time, and all those that invest in golf are understandably bullish about his future."

Under Armour, the sports clothing, shoe and accessory company, felt bullish enough to sign Spieth to a 10-year contract in January, before he won the Masters. The deal, which industry insiders say has "Tiger-like numbers," includes an eight-figure guarantee annually, bonus benchmarks (for things like winning a major), stock options and, in the future, a signature line of clothing.

Spieth and Under Armour seem to be a marketing match. "He feels comfortable with the people, comfortable with the product, and this gives him a chance to be a part of one

'SPIETH HAS
EXTENDED HIS
BRAND BEYOND
THE WORLD OF
GOLF TO THE
PUBLIC AT LARGE.'



of the fastest-growing brands in the world," says Jay Danzi, Spieth's agent for Lagardère Unlimited.

Under Armour, Titleist, Rolex, AT&T, NetJets, Super-Stroke Grips, Perfect Sense Digital and EA Sports give Spieth a strong endorsement portfolio. (Spieth is also a Golf Digest Playing Editor.) Danzi says Spieth has had more than 20 new offers but will be very selective in adding partners, and then only if they fit an overall brand strategy.

Including the TV, digital and print-media pop generated by the Masters, "Under Armour would have had to spend about \$35 million to get that level of coverage," says Drew Hawkins, managing director of Morgan Stanley Global Sports & Entertainment. "Their logo was seen all around the world for four days."

Under Armour originally signed Spieth in January 2013. From the 2014 Masters – when Spieth finished T-2 – to a week after the 2015 Masters, Under Armour stock went from \$51.08 to \$87.76. Right after this year's tournament, the company announced its 20th consecutive quarter of growth at 20 percent or more.

"It was really cool to see a kid live out a dream," says Ryan Kuehl, vice president of sports marketing and sponsorship for Under Armour. "He validates aggressive, young, fearless competitors, and that authenticates the sport. That's what we think we are."

Marketing experts say Spieth hits all the benchmarks endorsement partners look for:

BELIEVABILITY: No one thought Spieth's Masters win was a fluke. The believability factor extends beyond golf: People believe Spieth is telling the truth. "When Tiger was

behind the wheel of a Buick, we all got the joke that he was only there because he was being paid millions of dollars to be there," Gilford's Alexander says. "If you saw Jordan Spieth behind the wheel of a Buick, you'd have no doubt that he was behind the wheel of a Buick."

LONGEVITY: Because of Spieth's age, business partners are confident he'll be around for a long time, generating

publicity for their products for decades. Spieth is more than a decade younger than Justin

Rose or Adam Scott were when they won their first major championship

LIKABILITY: Spieth is a nice guy with no off-course baggage. He's polite, devoted to his special-needs sister, and articulate. The Jordan Spieth Family Foundation focuses on junior golf, military families and special-needs youth. Ellie, Jordan's younger sister, is his constant source of inspiration, and he references her often when speaking of his motivations for success.

SPIETH WON THE RIGHT MAJOR: The Masters is on an island by itself. When it arrives, there hasn't been a major in eight months, and there are two months until the next one. It also generates the highest TV ratings of any golf tournament and is televised to more than 100 countries. As the DBI shows, the tournament introduced Spieth to the world.

The potential for Spieth to make unimaginable numbers off the Under Armour deal is real. "It wouldn't surprise me to see Under Armour buy an equipment company in a few years," Alexander says. "They have room for enormous growth in their golf business."

AT&T has had a long in-

volvement in golf, including the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. At one point, AT&T had its logo on Woods' bag. That logo is now on Spieth's bag. As a Dallasbased company that covets the young market that lives on its phones, it's a perfect pairing. "The company has had a steep tradition in golf," says Mark Wright, VP for media and sponsorships at AT&T."When we went out to look for a golfer to be associated with the brand, Jordan Spieth was an amazing talent, but more important, he's an amazing human being. He has integrity,



first talked about forming a relationship with him, the likability and character factor are going to be there even when he's not winning. He's rock solid in that regard. Last year when he didn't win, he was amazing."

Under Armour gets giddy when talking about Spieth's impact on the brand. "It was not just that (Masters) weekend, but the past four months," Kuehl says. "We're up triple digits in many categories, we're selling out the shirts he was wearing, and there's a halo effect in all of our major categories. We were looking for that North Star athlete in golf – and we found him."

What's next? Every golfer finds that winning the first major changes life. Those who continue to succeed are the ones who adapt without losing the essence of who they are – or the focus on their game.

"There are a variety of things he's going to be deal-

'HE VALIDATES AGGRESSIVE, YOUNG, FEARLESS COMPETITORS, AND THAT AUTHENTICATES THE SPORT.'

family support; he presents as young in a game that could arguably use an injection of that. He's technology savvy. And he's a Dallas native. So you put that all together, and wow."

Under Armour and AT&T will use Spieth in print and electronic ads, television commercials, social media, in-store opportunities, meet-and-greets and other corporate entertainment.

"You'll have times when you aren't winning the Masters," Wright says. "When we ing with now," says Hawkins of Morgan Stanley. "He's gone from being a very likable young man and a good golfer to being catapulted into the public eye. Everyone is going to want a piece of him. He needs to continue to remain focused on his marketing message, focused on golf, and stay reliant on those who have supported him."

Like Woods, Spieth could be one of those players who raises not just his fortune but that of all those with a stake in the game. **6**



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hen JB Holmes shot 64 to get into a playoff (which he went on to win) with Jordan Spieth and Johnson Wagner at the Shell Houston Open in April, it wasn't even his best round this year. That was a 10-under 62 at Doral a month earlier. Safe to say, spring came just fine for JB Holmes. Flashback to 2006. After leading the PGA

Tour Q School, Holmes reached \$1 million

in earnings in just five tournaments – the fastest of any player in history. In addition to his ultra-long drives, he quickly impressed with his short game. His wedge to two feet on the 17th hole at the 2008 Ryder Cup all but clinched victory for Paul Azinger's US team.

But events conspired to knock Holmes off the tour. In 2011, he was diagnosed with a brain condition called Chiari

malformation and underwent two surgeries. Then elbow and ankle injuries slowed his return. He lost 40 kilometres an hour in swing speed, according to the only teacher he has ever had, Matt Killen. That's all behind him now. Holmes' win in Houston, his fourth on the PGA Tour, has primed him for the rest of 2015. Killen explains below how this power player with a short swing hits those monster drives.



JB HOLMES

Unconventional, but this guy flat-out kills it



POWER START

A natural fader, JB
Holmes typically sets
up with his feet, hips and
shoulders slightly open to
the target line. His grip looks
strong (hands turned to
his right), "but that's really
modern-day neutral," says his
teacher, Matt Killen. "I like how
his spine is tilted back a bit,
promoting an upward angle of
attack."

WIDE OFF THE BALL

In the first part of the backswing, his hips don't turn much, but his hands are as far from his body as possible, with little wrist hinge – that's wide, Killen says. In the third image, notice Holmes stays tall as 80 percent of his weight shifts to his right leg. And he's really cranking that hip turn. "More than most tour pros," Killen says.

TALL AT THE TOP

"JB makes a huge shoulder turn but a relatively short arm swing," Killen says. "His left arm is slightly bent, but the force of the swing will straighten it coming down." Holmes is poised for power. Says Killen: "From here, he can push down hard with his legs and use the ground as a springboard."

▶ DRIVING DISTANCE



JB Holmes (7th)



Tour average



Dustin Johnson (1st)

CLUBHEAD SPEED



JB Holmes (10th)



Tour average



Tony Finau (1st)

SOURCE: SHOTLINK



THE FORCE FEEL

Starting down, Holmes' left wrist bows outward ("common in great ball-strikers," Killen says), and he presses into the ground. That downward force sets up serious power as the club falls into an ideal delivery position. "His right elbow pitches down as he turns his shoulders, which causes the shaft to lay down."

TAKING MORE TILT

Through impact, Holmes increases his spine tilt to the right as he thrusts off the ground. Killen says they've measured this upward force at 227 percent of Holmes' body weight. "The additional spine tilt and a forward-leaning shaft at impact give JB a high launch with lower spin for more distance," Killen says.

LET IT ALL GO

Holmes has cleared his hips more than his shoulders just past impact. "His left wrist is in extension, like he's popping a towel, and his right wrist looks as if he's shaking hands with the target," Killen says. What about that left foot spinning out? "Someone who swings this hard can't harness it, but he's in balance."

PRO-FILE

JB HOLMES

33 / 5-foot-11 86 kilograms Bradenton, Florida

DRIVER

TaylorMade R15 430 9.5 degrees

BALL

Srixon Z-Star



WITH GUY YOCOM



ADAM SCOT and **GREG NORMAN** is back home in New Zealand splitting logs and telling tales of the greats (and Silly Billy)

• • • GOLF WATCHED since my retirement in September 2014: zero. Not one shot. I just don't follow it as a fan might. Never did. Now and again I'll catch some highlight from Tiger's career on the news and think, *I remember that*. His hole-out from behind the 16th at the 2005 Masters is like that. I've seen that one a few

times. Maybe when I'm an old man, I'll get caught up and watch them. There's a big catalogue of cool moments, that's for sure.

• • • THERE'S MORE to that Tiger hole-out than you probably know. After Tiger inspected the green and was walking back to his ball, he pointed out an old ball mark on the green. It was



the size of a dime, almost fully healed, practically invisible. He said, "You think if I hit that spot, it'll take the slope without going into the bunker?" His concern was the left greenside bunker; if the ball came off the slope with too much speed, it definitely could roll in there. I told him I liked that play. He then hit that old ball mark exactly, from 20 feet away from a tough lie. That the ball went in the hole was sort of a miracle, but hitting the old ball mark on the fly was one of the most amazing things I've ever seen.

• • ON THE DRIVE BACK to the rental house after Adam Scott won the Masters in 2013, I had an epiphany, clear as day, that it was time to hang it up. Who knows what prompts that inner voice? Maybe it was missing my son Jett's rugby practices back in New Zealand. He's 9. The 20 or more 13-hour flights back and forth to the States each year. Having my wife, Kristy, and Jett with me a couple of weeks a year in America wasn't enough. The inner voice always wins these arguments. tice rounds for that US Open, I thought there was no way he could go. The leg was killing him. But he played, collapsing when he got back to the hotel each day. On the course, the sickening click of bones rubbing together as he walked made me queasy. The groans and squeaks he made were unreal. It's the most heroic thing I've ever seen in golf.

 I NEVER SAW golf played like Phil Mickelson did on the front nine Sunday of the 2009 Masters. Tiger was in good form, too, and they were paired together, the game's two best players at their peaks, matching each other shot for shot, the fans going crazy. Phil made six birdies and tied the front-nine record of 30. Tiger made a birdie at the second and eagled the eighth. They both were near the lead, and I never felt more anticipation than I did walking to the 10th tee. And then it died. Phil hit it in the water at 12, Tiger bogeyed the last two holes, and the air totally came out of the balloon. Angel Cabrera ended up winning. That's golf. It's al• • • tiger received a lot of threats you never heard about - on an almost weekly basis - for years. The PGA Tour people provided security, and it wasn't unusual for one of them to apprise me of some phone call or letter that had come in. It's not easy being him. When he would walk and sign autographs, the amount of pushing and shoving, the number of little kids getting knocked down, was unbelievable - collectors sending kids out to have stuff signed. It was the dark side of that life.

 DO I REGRET tossing a fan's camera into the water at the 2002 Skins Game? No. The fan was taking pictures on the players' backswings all day. I told him repeatedly not to do it, and he couldn't have given a damn. He just kept snapping. The last hole was worth \$200 000, and Tiger needed to get up and down from a bunker to stop Phil from winning the cash. The guy clicked on Tiger's backswing, Tiger flinched and hit a lousy shot, and Phil takes the \$200 000. I was pissed. There's dies that you don't solicit another guy's player. Tiger told me about it, said he thought I should know. Needless to say, I talked to the caddie and told him, among other things, how unprofessional he was. The guy was surprised by two things: that Tiger told me about it, and by the confrontation.

e • • • AGAIN AND AGAIN over the years, Tiger would say, "I want to own my swing, not rent it." Nobody I saw in my 35 years on tour tried harder to own his swing than Tiger. He was obsessed with always getting better. The irony is, by changing coaches so much, it led to him renting several swings instead of owning just one, which upset his original goal. But he was very good at renting.

• • • WAS TIGER BETTER under Butch Harmon or Hank Haney? I'd say it was a wash. Under Butch, Tiger's wedge and short game were better. When he went to Hank, his woods and long irons seemed to improve, but the wedge and pitching games weren't as sharp. His putting, chipping and re-

'TIGER BELIEVES IN CLEAN BREAKS. WHEN HE ENDS A RELATIONSHIP,

Even as I worked my last tournaments with Adam in 2014, I knew I was gone.

• • WHEN THE USGA announced the 2008 US Open would be at Torrey Pines, Tiger became obsessed. Every time we played there in the years leading up to it, he would talk about where the pins would be, what they might do to the fairways, everything. His desire to win the Masters and the Open Championship was nothing compared to how he felt about the US Open. Then he broke his leg. When Tiger played nine-hole prac-

ways a case of what is versus what might have been.

A FIRM "Stand back, please" from the caddie, said with the right tone of authority, can work wonders on crowds. Fanny Sunesson had that tone, a commanding ring to her voice that let people know she was there to make sure things went right. It's body language, too. My natural stride communicated authority to people. When I went into a crowded gallery with Tiger, Adam or Greg Norman, I was there in part to protect them.

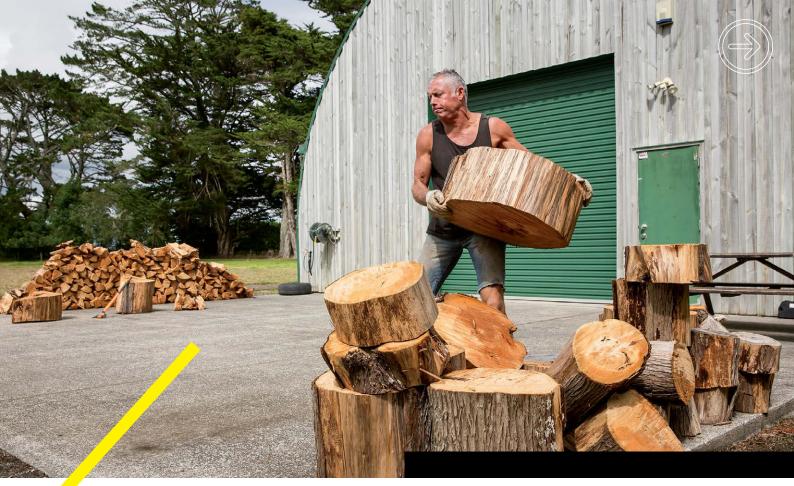
a basic etiquette to following golf, especially photographing golf, and the guy ignored it at everyone's expense except his own. As we walked across a bridge towards the clubhouse, I saw the fan and asked, "May I have your camera, please?" For some reason he let me take it, and I stuck my arm out and dropped it into the water. I think Tiger wound up paying for the camera.

• • • A CERTAIN CADDIE approached Tiger several times to present a case for why he should be on his bag. It's an unwritten rule among cad-

covery shots were great under both guys.

• • • TIGER BELIEVES in clean breaks. When he ends a relationship, be it with Butch, Hank or me, it could not be more over. The upside to clean breaks is, you don't dwell on the past, carrying around a bunch of regrets and what-ifs. There's no downside, provided you've thought it through. I'm a clean-break guy, too. Since I retired from caddieing, it's been like starting a completely new and interesting life.

• • having said that, the way Tiger fired me in 2011



was disappointing. He told me about it over the phone. Not hearing it from him face-toface really bothered me. The suddenness of it, the way it was done, him coming out of the hardest time in his life and me having been loyal to him for so many years, was worth some balls and wait for the players on the eighth tee to hit their tee shots before they putt. At the 2000 US Open at Pebble Beach, Tiger didn't wait. As the players ahead watched from the eighth tee, Tiger deliberately replaced his ball quickly and buried his putt, as if to say, hole doglegs to the left." In that one devastating sentence, he reminded Coltart he was a rookie coming in cold, that his captain had ignored him, and that he was playing a strange course against the best player in the world. Tiger didn't lose a hole and won easily.

the years. I spent the majority of my time with him on the course, so I'd only notice when I went months without seeing him. He always liked working out, and to a point it helped him, maybe more mentally than physically because of what exercise does

BE IT WITH BUTCH, HANK OR ME, IT COULD NOT BE MORE OVER."

consideration. Caddies get fired all the time - hey, Greg fired me in 1989 - but when you have what you believe is a friendship, it's going to leave a mark.

● ● ■ TIGER HAD THAT ELEMENT

of intimidation, and it was huge. His ball-striking alone was maybe the best ever. There was his knack for making the big putts on Sunday, which he did consistently over 15 years, so there was that. Then there were the little things. At Pebble Beach, it's customary for players who have hit to the seventh green to mark their

I'm going to bury you guys, and there's nothing you can do about it. I could see the players on No 8 sort of sag when the putt went in. Tiger went on to win by 15.

THE LITTLE THINGS.

At the 1999 Ryder Cup at Brookline, where the US made that incredible comeback, Tiger's singles draw was Andrew Coltart, a Ryder Cup rookie who hadn't played either of the first two days. Coltart was visibly nervous. Tiger walked over to him and said, "I know you haven't played. If it helps, this first

SOME PLAYERS CAN'T

be intimidated. Zach Johnson is at the top of that list. He knows his game, its strengths and limitations, and he trusts it. There isn't a person or situation that is going to make him play beyond his capabilities or take risks he shouldn't take. In fact, he'll embrace who he is even more and relish the challenge of beating someone with a bigger game. It doesn't mean Zach will win every time, it just means he won't lose because of the guy standing across from him.

• TIGER BULKED UP OVER

to help your confidence and your thinking. As for his game, I'm not sure it helped him much, especially working with weights. Certainly he hit the ball further when I first saw him than he did later.

DID TIGER DO PEDS

(performance-enhancing drugs)? There's no chance. Love him or hate him, Tiger always respected the game. He knows its history and people, its standing in sports and the world. He always knew what golf did for him personally. Whether PEDs have been used by other people is a good

question, because it's occurred in every other sport. So why would golf be any different? The PGA Tour tries so hard to promote a squeaky-clean image, and we all know that's not the case, certainly with recreational drugs and probably the other stuff. I saw no specific cases and was never particularly interested in the subject. But, yeah, I'm sure it's gone on.

- • I ALWAYS WISHED the tour would disclose not just when a player has been suspended, but for what. Every other sport does it, and not revealing anything just invites speculation, a lot of it irresponsible. I'd like to know the reasoning behind that policy.
- • TIGER BECAME competitively old. Any player who has won a tournament will tell you how draining it is. There's the pressure of winning the tournament, the media, family, business aspects that fol-

nary finish, a top 10 and a win. During the course of a year I never could tell you how much I was making. I always focused on the job and figured I could add it up when I did my tax return at the end of the year. Did I do well? Let's just say I could have retired a bit earlier than I did.

• • IN SOME WAYS, the stories about Tiger's frugality are true. I'd follow in his wake, tipping people he overlooked. It was a very strange game he played. But on the flip side was almost unbelievable generosity he never wanted publicised. In 2010, what came to be known as the Pike River Mine Disaster occurred here in New Zealand - a mine explosion that claimed the lives of 29 miners. It happened on a Wednesday during what we call Speedweek, in which we race on a different track every night for a week. The final event was to be

Ronald McDonald Houses, which I support through the Steve Williams Foundation. You can't leave those facilities with dry eyes.

- MY FOUNDATION came about because of Earl Woods. Towards the end of 2000, after I'd been with Tiger a while, it was Earl who noticed I had become sort of a public person because of my association with Tiger. Not so much in America, but certainly in New Zealand. He pointed out how I could put that to work, and he gave me some ideas. The foundation has raised between \$2 million and \$3 million and will do more, and it all started on a suggestion from Earl.
- • AS A KID I hated school. I'd ditch, get caught, my dad would scold me, I'd go back and then I'd ditch again. I was bright enough, but school just bored me. By the time I was 13, I knew caddieing was

He always showed up wearing a trench coat with a racing form hanging from a pocket, and carrying a briefcase that was empty. On the course, Silly Billy carried a notebook that had the pin positions for the day, but nothing else. He never had actual yardages but was good enough at guessing to work for some pretty good players. In Switzerland one year he was working for José Rivero. The course was at altitude, and after Jose airmailed about his fifth green of the day, he snatched the "yardage book" from Silly Billy's hands and saw it was completely empty. At first he looked at Silly Billy like he was going to kill him. Then he started laughing. He dropped the notebook and kept playing, asking Silly Billy for more yardages.

• • IN THE MID-1980S I caddied a few times in Asia for

'TIGER BECAME COMPETITIVELY OLD. ANY PLAYER WHO HAS

low. With Tiger, everything was tripled, and he backed it up week after week for many years. It's going to erode anyone, and Tiger wasn't immune. He's no different than one of my race cars. You can maintain one perfectly, replace parts and treat it like a baby, but sooner or later, it just wears out.

mate pay structure with every player I worked for. Some caddies who work for world-class players do it for a fixed salary, but I never wanted that. My arrangements were always performance-based, and it was the same when I worked for Raymond Floyd, Greg, Tiger and Adam. There was my basic fee, then three different percentages – somewhere between 5 and 10 percent – for an ordi-

on Sunday at Greymouth, near where the disaster happened. Naturally they considered cancelling, but then they decided to stage the race and raise money for the families. Tiger had heard about it on the news, and when we spoke on the phone he immediately offered a donation. I'm not comfortable divulging the amount, but it was substantial, and it helped those families considerably. It wasn't uncommon for Tiger to do things like that.

• • • THERE'S NO TRACE of golf memorabilia in our home. I don't watch old movies, or any movies at all, really, except during those plane rides to and from the States. The only things that have made me cry are visits to the Starship Children's Hospital and

what I wanted to do. I had jobs along the way, delivering newspapers, making sausage at a butcher shop and, of course, caddieing on weekends. I eventually put away \$20 000, a good sum of money, to stake myself caddieing abroad.

• • • BEFORE I LEFT HOME for Europe to start caddying – I was 15 years old – an old New Zealand pro named Walter Godfrey told me, "When you travel, never drink tap water and always eat well. Do those two things, and everything else will be fine." He was right. For the next 35 years I never missed a week caddieing due to illness, and I was never late for a tee time.

• • • IN EUROPE I knew a caddie known only as Silly Billy. Nobody knew his actual name.

John Jacobs, one of the great characters in American golf. In Singapore, he barely made his tee time, running up in leather street shoes just under the wire. By the looks of John, he hadn't been to bed. He almost whiffed the first tee shot, then disappeared into the clubhouse to find some golf shoes. He rejoined me for his second shot, out of breath and looking worse by the minute. The end of a story like that should be that he recovered to shoot lights out and win the tournament. But I'll be honest: He shot a million.

• • • RAYMOND FLOYD BE-LIEVED the ball could be willed into the hole. He didn't just want me on the green with him, he'd tell me, "Stevie, you need to will that ball into the hole along with me. If we're both willing it, it gives it a 50 percent greater chance of going in." Now, science tells us you can't actually do that. But it certainly takes any negative thoughts out of your head, and who knows? An uncommon number of Raymond's putts did seem to catch an edge and drop at the last second.

• • • A REMARKABLE THING about Greg Norman was, he never tired. He was the hardest practiser I ever saw, period. When he went to the range to change something, he didn't leave until he had it. It could be five minutes, or it could be 12 hours – no exaggeration.

• • • TOUR CADDIES are suing the PGA Tour wanting to be treated better, and it didn't take much to get me to sign on. Of all the people associated with the players – agents, teachers, sport psychiatrists, trainers, media and caddies – caddies mates need me to testify in court, I'll be on the first plane back to America.

• • toughest walk, hands down, is Augusta National when it's hot, humid and those thick white boiler suits they make us wear are holding the sweat and pollen. That's torture. The Masters is tough in other ways. Caddies are required to wear hats at all times. One year Tiger and I came to the 17th tee on Sunday. It was hot, the pressure was on and I felt I needed to gather myself for those last two holes. So I put the bag down, removed my hat, wiped my head, took some breaths and stood with the hat down to my side. A marshall in a green coat walks over, and amid the silence says in a stern voice, "Hats on, please." I disliked the pleasure he seemed to take in watching me comply. It would have been nicer if he'd whispered.



EMOTIONAL WIN: WILLIAMS WITH TIGER WOODS AT THE 2006 BRITISH OPEN, TIGER'S FIRST VICTORY AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER.

young players out there, one I've seen has that special ball flight: Brooks Koepka. Adam and I were paired with him at the Open Championship last year, and from his first tee shot on, I thought, *This kid is special*. Obviously he's searching to find the other parts of the puzzle, but I haven't seen a ball flight like that since Tiger, and

Matt Kuchar. Golf needs more people like them.

• • • SPEEDWAY RACING is the second-biggest sport in New Zealand, behind rugby, and I'm proud to have won national championships in two different classes. There are four "majors" for Saloon cars, just as in golf, and I've won five of those. It's a passion.

WON A TOURNAMENT WILL TELL YOU HOW DRAINING IT IS.'

are the one entity treated like second-class citizens. It was always frustrating that I couldn't get access to the locker room to retrieve an umbrella or extra sleeve of balls. No access to a place where you could come in and wash your face after a long day on the course. Fans know that using portable toilets at 4pm on a hot day is tolerable as a one-off, but using them every day when there's a nice bathroom nearby would wear on you, no? Riding a crowded shuttle bus to the course is okay for a few days, but after several months of it, you really wish you could have a parking area to bring your rental car. If the game were invented today, there's no way the present model would be in place. If and when my

● ● SUNDAY OF THE 2007 PGA Championship at Southern Hills was the hottest day of any American tournament I was at. It was 39C that day and close to a thousand people were treated for heat-related symptoms. But that day was a distant second, heat-wise, to the first day of a South Australian Open in the early 1980s. It was 49C and a full 40 percent of the field withdrew from dehydration or exhaustion after that first day. I caddied for Terry Gale, and I remember Terry gasping, "If we keep standing, we make money."We made it.

• • • ONCE IN A GREAT WHILE, a player comes along who hits a golf ball the way it was meant to be hit. Powerful, piercing, the perfect trajectory. Of the

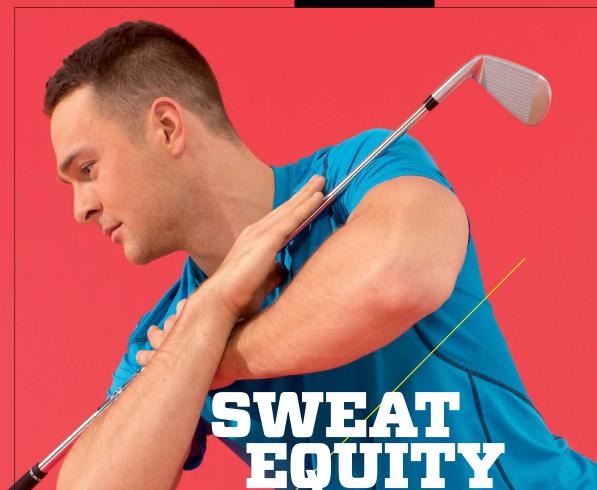
before that, Johnny Miller.

• • • GREAT PLAYERS don't want to accept they're wrong even when they're wrong. The better the player, the stronger that tendency. When bad things happen, the player needs to let off steam. A caddie needs the ability to let the player vent without hearing anything but information that matters.

player I worked for was Peter Thomson. I was 12, he was a five-time Open Champion-ship winner, and of course I watched his every move. What I remember: He never got upset, never cursed. Everyone around him came up to his level – no cursing, no vulgarity, respectful of others. Of players today, the person who resembles Peter the most is

• • • • I WAS LISTENING TO an old clip of Michael Jordan saying something along the lines of, "Retirement gives me the choice to do anything I want." He said if he came back, the commitment would take away those choices. So if I came back and worked for a player, it would be part time, because the freedom I have right now is just too good.

• • • • WHATEVER YOUR JOB IS, you've periodically got to get away from it completely. When I'd step away due to a player taking time off, I totally forgot about it. Never read the scores or anything, which more than once led to embarrassing situations where a guy had won the previous week and I didn't know to congratulate him. But it kept me sane.



Use this winter workout to keep your game sharp

BY DARRELL KESTNER AND BEN SHEAR

ach spring, with a new golfing summer ahead, we meet players who are full of optimism about getting back out on the course but lacking in physical ability. It's not that they've forgotten how to play golf. It's that the winter has taken its toll on their bodies. Too many frosty Saturdays lounging on the couch has reduced a once-functional swing into an awkward, flailing mess. It's like watching a zombie from "The Walking Dead" try to swing a club. Rather than letting this cycle start again, we've teamed up (Darrell as the swing guy, Ben as the fitness guy) to create an offseason workout that targets the physical issues of seasonal golfers. These six exercises will keep your swing-and body-prepped for spring. So get your sneakers on, and let's go to work.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **DAVID BRANDON GEETING**



FIX NO

ABOVE Lie down on your side, knees bent and resting on a rolled-up towel or mat (A). With your hands extended and palms together, slowly rotate your torso towards the ceiling as far as you can without your knees coming off the mat or separating (B). Don't rotate past the point where your knees rise or pull apart. Make 8-12 rotations, then switch sides and repeat in the opposite direction.

FIX NO 2

RIGHT Anchor an elastic band, stand parallel to it with a small physio ball squeezed between your knees, and grab the band as shown (A). Rotate your body away from the anchored point, keeping your arms extended (B). Resist the urge to pull the band with your arms only. Let your upper-body rotation do most of the work. Do 8-12 reps, switch sides and repeat in the other direction.

Darrell Kestner and Ben Shear direct golf and fitness programmes at Golf & Body in New York City. Kestner also is the director of golf at Deepdale Golf Club in Manhasset, New York. Shear is a Golf Digest fitness advisor.



"Give these exercises 20 minutes a day,

THE DOWNSWING Over months of neglect, the pelvis muscles become ineffective as downswing initiators. The lower body should turn towards the target before any upper-body or club movement in that direction. If it doesn't, the result is a poor swing path and off-line shots.



FIX NO 1

ABOVE Squeeze a rolled-up towel between your knees and then lie on your back with your arms out and legs raised and bent at a 90-degree angle (A). Keeping your shoulders on the floor, slowly lower your knees to one side without letting the towel drop (B). Keep lowering them until the shoulder on the opposite side starts to rise. The moment that happens, return to the start position. Do 8-12 of these knee drops, then do another set in the opposite direction.

FIX NO 2

RIGHT Standing with your feet together, hold a medicine ball with your arms extended just off your left hip pocket. You're going to simulate the swing using this ball. Simultaneously rotate your upper body to the right as you take a small sidestep to the left with your left foot (A). From this position, throw the ball across your body with some force (B). Do 8-12 reps, then repeat in the opposite direction.



and you'll come out fast in the spring."



FIX NO 1

ABOVE Lie on your back, and place a tennis ball under the outside edge of your left shoulder blade (A). With your left arm pressed against your side and your hand raised to the sky (palm facing you), lower your hand to the left and try to touch the floor with your thumb (B). If you feel your back arching or your arm pulling away from your body, stop and return to the start. Do 8-12 reps, then put the ball under your right shoulder blade and stretch the opposite side.

FIX NO 2

RIGHT Hold a mini weighted ball (one to three kilograms) in your left hand in front of your body (palm facing you) and put your right arm behind your back (A). Fling the ball to your left by letting your left forearm rotate counterclockwise as your body mimics its through-swing motion (B). The upper part of your left arm should remain against your torso throughout the exercise. Do 8-12 reps and then switch hands and throw in the other direction.



COURSE

BUNKERS PER HOLE)

THE PGA RETURNS TO WHISTLING STRAITS WHERE ONE SPIT OF SAND COST DUSTIN JOHNSON. FIVE YEARS LATER, THERE ARE EVEN MORE BUNKERS





HERB KOHLER IS A HAPPY MAN. Not just because his Straits course at Whistling Straits, ranked 22nd on Golf Digest's list of America's 100 Greatest Courses, is hosting its third PGA Championship in the past 11 years from August 13–16 (and will host the Ryder Cup in 2020), but because his Pete Dye-meets-Salvador Dali-meets-Pablo Picasso course design certifiably has more than 1 000 bunkers. In 2010, before that year's PGA, we counted every bunker (a task that took 11 hours over two days), and Kohler was disappointed – make that, in disbelief – that we'd found only 967. "Maybe I'll have Pete add a few more," he grumbled at the time.





YE INSISTS HE NEVER RECEIVED SUCH A REQUEST FROM KOHLER, and though he has dinked around with some holes over the past few years, achieving a threshold bunker count was never one of his goals. Yet, when caddie Bob Palm and I repeated the process before this year's PGA − walking down the right side of every hole one morning, the left side of each the next morning, charting every bunker and marking each to ensure we wouldn't count any of them twice, we discovered the course now has 1 012 bunkers, an average of more than 56 per hole: 535 on the front nine, 477 on the back. The par-4 eighth has the most (109), and the par-3 12th has the fewest (18). ▶ We found big bunkers divided into smaller ones, and a few eliminated, but remaining is the infamous bunker right of the 18th fairway where, in the 2010 PGA, Dustin Johnson grounded his club in the sand and incurred a two-stroke penalty that knocked him out of a playoff and into a tie for fifth. (Martin Kaymer defeated Bubba Watson in the three-hole aggregate playoff for the title.)

Dye was sympathetic but took no responsibility for Johnson's error. "How he didn't figure out it was a bunker, I don't know," Pete says.

In Johnson's defence, although the bunker was certainly in a depression, with a modest front lip, it contained only a shallow layer of sand, which was dotted with patches of grass and was full of footprints from a week's worth of spectators who gave it scant notice. Indeed, in replays of Johnson's shot, spectators can be seen standing in the bunker.

Johnson told officials he thought he was in a patch of rough trampled by the gallery. Trouble is, *every* patch of sand at Whistling Straits is considered a bunker. The course

looks like a links in towering sand dunes along the western shoreline of Lake Michigan, but in a previous life, the site was a flat Army air base, crisscrossed by concrete roadways and runways and containing the type of bunkers in which ammunition was stored. When Dye starting transforming it, he found no pure sand on site. The soil was rocky and mostly clay - even the beach was mostly rock so Dye had 13 126 truckloads of sand hauled in.

Again, in Johnson's defence, photos taken before the Straits opened in 1998 show some of the faux dunes created by Dye were covered in sand, which had been dumped and spread in an apparent attempt to make them appear as natural sand dunes. But then tall fescue grasses overtook them, and the hill-sides went from white and barren to green and wavy (golden in autumn). But in 2010, spectators' wear patterns might well have exposed some of that thin layer of sand.

Still, Johnson (and most definitely caddie Bobby Brown) should have known they were in a bunker: Every competitor and caddie in the 2010 PGA was given a local rules sheet that specified all sand throughout the property was to be played as a bunker. The notice even stated that some bunkers were outside the gallery ropes and would likely contain "numerous footprints, heel prints

and tyre tracks."

The local rule will be enforced again at this year's PGA, says Kerry Haigh, chief championships officer for the PGA of America. "As in 2004 and 2010, it will be in writing, will be placed in the registration packet, attached to the rules sheets, posted on mirrors in the bathrooms as well as at the first and 10th tees," Haigh says. "If players aren't aware of the rule, it's not for lack of distribution."

The bunkers are so numerous and scattered, Haigh says, that there's no way to keep them off-limits to spectators. "In a couple of tight areas," he says, "the only way to circulate the gallery is to have them walk through a portion of a

PROJECTS TO DYE FOR

The course construction business is on the up in the United States.

▶ LAST YEAR, I played a round with golf design's royal couple, Pete and Alice Dye, at their home club, Gulf Stream, a South Florida layout Pete had just totally remodelled. (Yes, Pete convinced fellow members to let him eradicate their classic Donald Ross design in the name of playability. How's that for salesmanship?) It was a breezy round in light breezes, with interesting conversation throughout.

On one tee, Pete listed his current design work: the new Chatham Hills north of Indianapolis; the new White Oak Plantation near Jacksonville; a third nine at Nemacolin Woodlands in Pennsylvania; a fifth 18 for Herb Kohler in Sheboygan, Wisconsin; transformation of the South Course at Purdue University; remodelling Taboo in Canada; more changes at Crooked Stick in Indiana; regrassing at Long Cove in South Carolina; remodelling Des Moines Golf & Country Club and so on. "He can't say no," Alice said.

After the round, I asked for a tour of nearby Delray Dunes Golf & Country Club, Pete's first Florida design, now nearly 50 years old. We headed to my car. "Whatever you do, Pete," Alice called out, "don't let them talk you into remodelling their course."

Sure enough, within minutes of arriving at Delray Dunes, two club members approached us. "Hey,

Pete," said one. "When are you going to rebuild our course?"

Pete shrugged. "You'll have to ask Alice about that," he said.

That Pete Dye has such a full schedule at 89 is testament to his stamina and his Hall of Fame status. It's also evidence that the golf-design industry is healthier than it has been in a decade.

All of a sudden, plenty of American architects have plenty of work.
Gil Hanse, who finally completed the new course for next year's

Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, is working on several contracts, as are Tom Doak, Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw. Doak is working close to home in Michigan, doing a second 18 for Forest Dunes. The wrinkle there is that Doak convinced the owners to let him build a reversible 18-hole course that resort guests can play clockwise one day and counterclockwise the next. Though the idea is as old as the Old Course at St Andrews, it's a refreshingly new concept in the 21st century.



'E: JENSEN LARSO

bunker. But those bunkers aren't normally in play."

Player confusion might lie in the fact that this all-sandis-a-bunker rule isn't universal. The opposite rule was applied at the 2012 PGA at Dye's Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, where nothing was considered a bunker. All sand was considered a "transition area," and players could ground their club anywhere. It also differs from the rule the USGA applied at last year's US Open at Pinehurst No 2, where only sand having rake marks was considered a bunker. All other patches of exposed sand were treated as "through the green," and a final determination was left with the rules official accompanying each group.

Johnson had a veteran rules



official, David Price, with him during the final round of the 2010 PGA. Before Johnson took his second shot, Price asked if he needed any assistance. Johnson simply asked Price to move the gallery back ahead of him. He never asked whether his sandy lie constituted a bunker. To Johnson's credit, after the round, when shown a television replay and told of the penalty, he accepted it without argument.

Bunkers aside, Dye has made only modest changes to the course since 2010. "Nothing most people would even notice," he says, though the 14th can play as a drivable par 4 if desired. Dye also added a tee on the 11th that shortens the hole, making that par-5 a gambling two-shotter that brings into play – what else? – a mammoth bunker so deep that its sides are shored up by Dye's trademark railroad ties.

What type of golfer does the course favour? The last two PGAs there were won by internationals: Kaymer from Germany five years ago and Vijay Singh of Fiji in a playoff in 2004. That trends well for defending champion Rory McIlroy, who missed making the 2010 playoff by failing to sink a 20-foot birdie putt on the 72nd hole.



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SHOOT FOR THE SKY

HOW TO LAUNCH YOUR IRONS HIGHER

THE MASTERS MIGHT MAKE YOU THINK OF AZALEAS IN BLOOM,

Amen Corner or the green jacket, but it makes me think about hitting sky-high iron shots. That's the only way to get the ball close to some of the pins at Augusta, especially when you've got a 6-iron or longer into the green. Flighting the ball higher makes my carry distances more predictable and gets the ball to stop quicker—two major control factors. That really helped me win the Farmers Insurance Open in February. Torrey's greens were so firm, I needed to drop my irons in softly. There are several things you can do at address and during the swing to create a higher trajectory. And the beauty is, you can pick the adjustments that work best with your current swing. Start with this one: Visualise the shot. If you think about hitting it higher and look up at address to how high you want the ball to go, you'll often subconsciously adjust by tilting back, setting more weight on your rear foot, and so on. Turn the page for other ways to launch your iron shots. —WITH RON KASPRISKE



ADD LOFT

Increasing the loft of the clubface at impact will definitely increase the height of the shot. But how you do that could affect your shot shape, so adjustments are necessary. Try these two ways to add loft:

Set your clubface so it's pointing slightly right of your target at address.

From there, resist the urge to square the face at impact.

Note: An open face will promote a left-to-right shot for right-handed golfers, so you might want to adjust your aim or swing path accordingly. It's easier to add height to a fade than to a draw, so I like to open the face and swing on a path left of my target.

Picture your hands above the ball's position, not pushed forward, at impact. It can help to set the clubshaft in a vertical position at address-straight up and down. Good players often lean the shaft towards the target to compress iron shots. They can still hit it high because they've got a lot of clubhead speed, but most amateurs need to hit with the shaft more neutral to achieve a higher trajectory.

SHALLOW THE SWING

If the clubhead approaches the ball on an angle that's closer to horizontal with the ground than vertical-think of a jumbo jet landing on a runway-it's going to produce a higher launch angle. Here are two things you can do to shallow your approach:

Play the ball further forward in your stance (right).

At the same time, make sure you're supporting your body weight a little more with your back foot. I wouldn't go too far forward with the ball. If you normally play your 6-iron a couple of inches forward of centre, move it up another inch. That will naturally increase the dynamic loft of the club at impact.

Feel as if you're sweeping the ball off the turf.

You still want to take a thin sliver of a divot in front of the ball to ensure that you hit the shot solidly, but don't try to chop down on it or scoop it into the air. A good swing thought is to keep the clubhead low through the impact zone. This will reduce your angle of approach.



CREATE MORI Clur Speen

I wouldn't advise you to swing wildly fast, but you need to make an aggressive move through impact to increase backspin, which makes the ball fly higher. Make these two adjustments to boost your speed:

Keep your body turning through the shot.

The club moves fastest when it's propelled by your arms and body rotating together. You can't create power for a higher flight if you're all arms. Even worse, if your body stops turning through, your arms will whip past you and flip the clubface shut. That's a low hook.

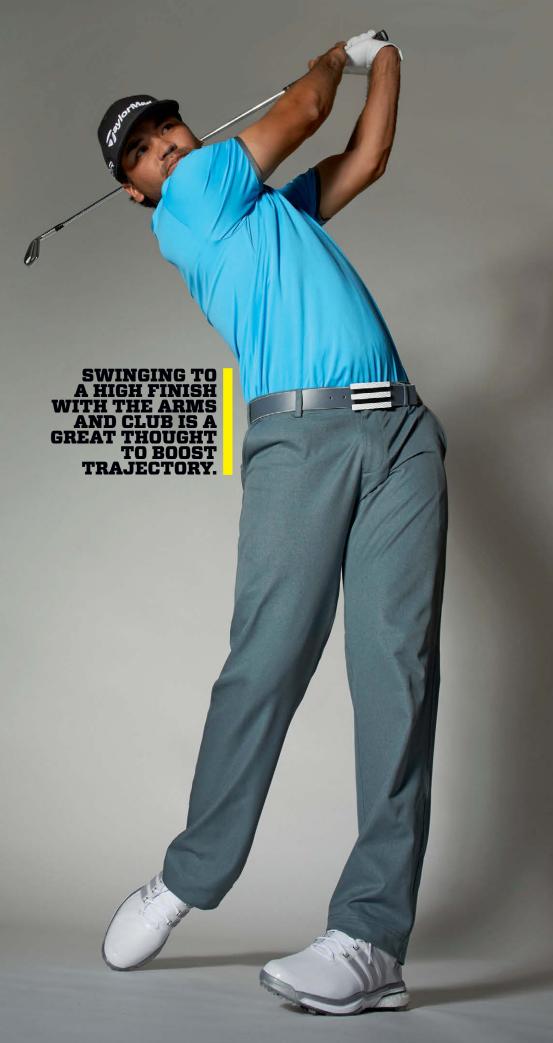
Swing your hands high to the finish (*right*).

Slinging the club up and over your lead shoulder not only creates speed through the shot, it promotes a higher launch.

Don't rush to make this high-hands finish. If you set up as I've described-a little more on your back foot, with the ball forward-you're pre-setting a high finish.

Then just make a level strike with plenty of speed, and you'll launch it into the sky and parachute it onto the green.

JASON DAY, 27, is a three-time PGA Tour winner and has \$20 million in career earnings.



UNDER

THE

BY **OLIVER HOROVITZ**

MIDNIGHT

SUN

Westman Islands Golf Club, Iceland's southernmost course, sits on a volcanic island reachable by 30-minute ferry.

- ROUND-THE-CLOCK TEE TIMES.
- LAVA-GUARDED GREENS.
- A NINE-HOLE COURSE STRAIGHT OUT OF A HITCHCOCK FILM.
- GOLF IN ICELAND IS QUIRKY, BEAUTIFUL & VERY, VERY FUN



VISITED ICELAND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NOVEMBER 2013, AND ON THAT TRIP I MADE A FEW OBSERVATIONS:

- **1.** The landscape is bewilderingly beautiful.
- **2.** Everyone is blond, and 871 percent better looking than you.
- **3.** Nine out of 10 Icelandic homes are heated by geothermal springs, and this hot water kind of smells like flatulence.
- 4. Iceland is obsessed with golf.

Because of No 4 (and slightly because of No 2), I recently returned to Iceland, to spend five days immersing myself in its golf.

Did you know Iceland has more golf courses per capita than any other country in the world?

Yup. You read that right. The island has 65 golf courses for a mere 321 000 inhabitants, of whom roughly 60 000 are at least occasional golfers. Golf's popularity in Iceland is eclipsed only by soccer and team handball, owing to the country's silver medal in team handball during the 2008 Olympics. Eighty-five percent of all Icelanders tuned in for that final match, and a "phallological" museum in Reykjavik proudly created a special exhibition afterwards, replicating every team member's, um, member. But I digress.

The golf season in Iceland is short – May through September – but when it arrives, it arrives with trumpets blaring. Summertime in Iceland means 24 delicious hours of daylight. And Icelanders, who have waited through an interminable winter of darkness, now act – how do I put this politely? – a little nuts.

During summer, many courses in Iceland are open for play 24 hours a day. Icelanders play golf after work, after dinner. "We just can't get enough golf; we become obsessed," says Helgi Eysteinsson, one of 3 000 members at Reykjavik Golf Club, Iceland's oldest club, dating from 1934. Prince Charles has played there, as has Rudy Giuliani, and Alice Cooper . . . sadly, not all in the same three-ball.

There are mega-marvellous golf adven-

tures to be had in Iceland.

My favourite? The Arctic Open. This is serious bucket-list material. Played since 1986, the Arctic Open is an international golf tournament played at Akureyri Golf Club, the second-most northern 18-hole course in the world. (Norway's Tromsø Golf Park holds claim to being the northernmost.) The Arctic Open has one bizarre feature: You might begin your round after midnight, as tee times run from 4pm through 12.50am.

Assembling for the 36-hole Stableford event are 200 golfers, mostly Icelanders mixed with a growing number of in-the-know international visitors. The mood is, quite simply, wonderful. On the 14th tee, two women greet you with *sodid braud* (bread with lamb) and hot chocolate mixed with rum. Your playing partners could include local fishermen or the CEO of Icelandair.

The Arctic Open entry fee is \$385 (about R.5 000), which includes two practice rounds, meals at the opening and closing ceremony, and, on a different note, whale watching. First prize is a trophy paired with an Icelandic wristwatch.

Other prizes include baskets full of wine and Icelandic cheeses. The golf can be competitive. Kristinn Bjarnason, a plus-2 Icelander, shot a five-under-par 66 in the opening round. The eventual 2014 champion, Brynja Herborg Jónsdóttir, collected 78 Stableford points and became the tournament's first female victor. In comparison, I opened my 2014 Arctic Open campaign by topping a tee shot, blanketing the first

tee in a horrifying silence. I did not win any Icelandic cheese.

Playing under the Midnight Sun is like gambling in a casino. Time loses meaning: 3am comes and goes without warning, and there are only vague biological reminders of passing time, such as feeling hungry and then remembering you ate dinner eight hours ago. Having played through the night, many Arctic Open participants go straight to their jobs after holing out on 18.

"My wife and I have played in this tournament for 26 years," says Bjorgvin Bjorgvinsson, a 60something Icelander from Reykjavik. "As soon as we leave here on Sunday, we book it for the next year."

As a group comes into the clubhouse, Bjorgvin continues: "I've missed out three years, total." He pauses, head down, a little sadly. "We've got three children and built four houses – but still, that's no excuse for missing out."

THE ORIGINAL 'ANGRY BIRDS'

Further south, out on a peninsula minutes from Reykjavik, lies another superb golf adventure. Ness Golf Club, a charming nine-hole course with stunning views of Mount Esja (Iceland's tallest mountain) and one unique hazard.

"They're called *kria*," my Icelandic playing partner, Karl Karlsson, explains, as we pull into the car park. "They are a little ... um ... how you say ... aggressive."

"Got it," I nod, and open my passengerside door. I am immediately dive-bombed by a bird the size of my left hand.

"Cahhh cahhh cahhhhh!!!" the little bird



The seventh hole at.
Vik Golf Club, which has \$2 monivers, total.

screeches angrily at me.

"Ahhhhhh!!!" I yell, and dive back into the car. Karl says nothing but seems vaguely ashamed of my cowardice.

I have met my first kria.

The kria are Arctic terns. Every summer, they travel from Antarctica to Iceland – the longest migration of any bird on the planet. If you've ever complained about your commute to work, consider this: Over the course of its life, each kria will make the equivalent of three round trips to the moon. Several thousand kria land on this very golf course, where they will nest in the rough from May until July, laying their eggs. If you keep your ball on the fairway, all is dandy. However, hapless golfers who wander into the rough are immediately swarmed by the angry birds. The kria don't just screech – they attack, sometimes drawing blood.

It is golf meets Alfred Hitchcock.

Amazingly, the 675 members of Ness Golf
Club put up with the kria as a way of life.

Members walk nonchalantly through the
rough with clubs held above their heads –
Ness Rule 101 of Survival, since kria attack
their intruder's highest point. Some members use umbrellas in place of golf clubs,
which also guard against a secondary kria attack method. (Hint: rhymes with "sitting.")

"The kria are a huge part of this club," Kristín Lydsdottir, the (blonde, beautiful) granddaughter of the club's founder, tells me after my round. As I look down the ninth fairway and see the kria swarm another stunned tourist-golfer in the rough, I decide that nine holes at Ness give definition to "extreme golf," and possibly the best motivation ever for hitting fairways.

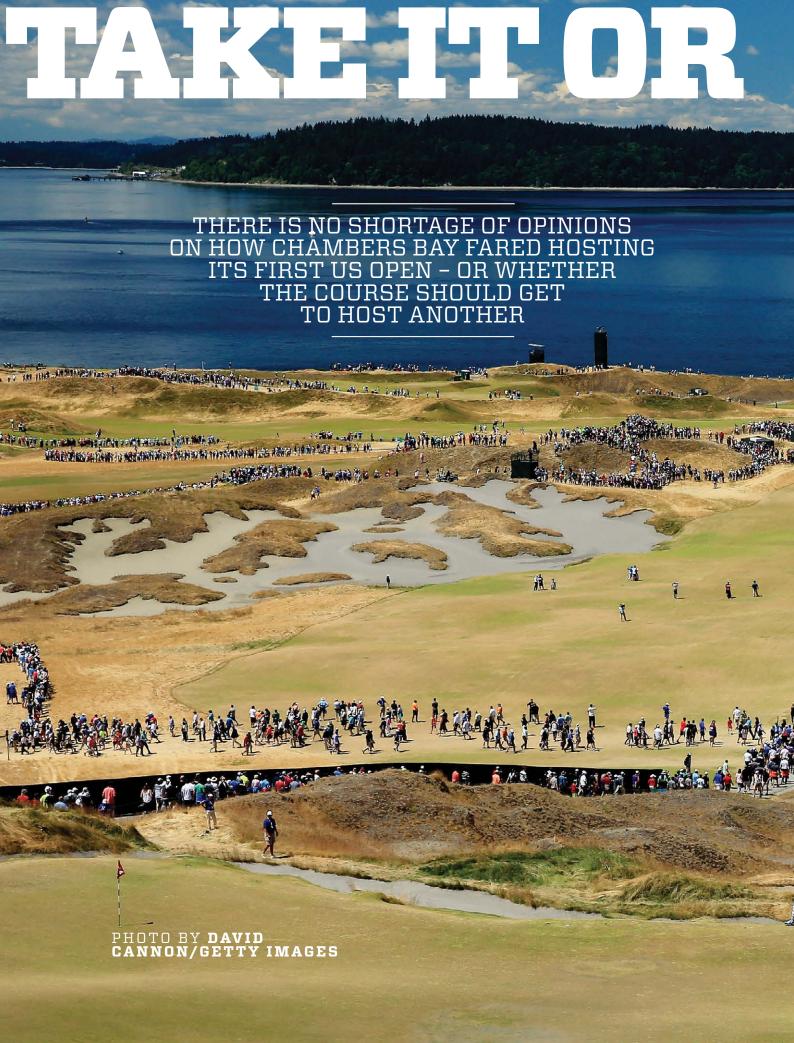
APRÈS GOLF: A GEOTHERMAL SOAK

When not hitting the course, hit "the pools" – geothermal hot tubs located in almost every town. They are Iceland's answer to the Scottish pub. In one such pool, my lasting memory of Icelandic golf was formed. I had just finished my first round in the Arctic Open (at 6am), and, feeling exhausted, decided to retreat to the local pool for a restorative soak. As I floated blissfully in my hot tub, a corpulent Icelandic businessman suddenly plunged in beside me. Instead of saying "hello," he made a confession:

"My chipping . . . was *terrible*." Such is the importance of golf to Icelanders.











THE COURSE

The very idea of Chambers Bay – sand base, fescue grass, free rein to an architect - implies golf mecca. But on the flip side, such resources reasonably demand a high bar. By that standard, Chambers Bay is a magnificent failure.

Or in the words of Geoff Ogilvy, "it could have been the venue."

Course designer Robert Trent Jones Junior's career has been marked by use of his persuasive and political skills to land some incredible projects - Princeville in

Hawaii and Spanish Bay on the Monterey Peninsula to name two - and now Chambers Bay. All three are incredible visually, high in wow factor. And none of the three is considered a great course, or at least not in the class of modern American classics built on sand bases like Sand Hills and Whistling Straits.

Phil Mickelson put together a team that vied to build Chambers Bay. Although he had posihave looked like this." There are many very good holes at Chambers Bay, but none that left people talking about design greatness or earning an unofficial nomination into the architecture pantheon. Perhaps the course needs to be seen more, but after a week of close scrutiny,

the sequence of holes seemed

closer to monotonous than

tive things to say about the

course, when asked what

he would have done with

the blank canvas of the land

available, he said, "It wouldn't

That impression is reinforced by an awkward routing that lacks the flow

individually memorable.

11 LIKE THE GOLF THA IT GOT US TO PLAY. IT WAS NOT MY FAVOURI' COURSE, BU I LIKE WHA THEY'RE THE IDE **BEHIND IT**



of architectural classics. The many long walks between greens and tees, some at odd angles, keep the mind from conceiving the layout as a collective piece.

Jones' big sin is overly big humps, which extend to hugely undulating greens that at times go over the top. Rather than going for a flatter landscape like traditional links, Jones chose to try for elevation changes that produced big views.

Never mind how it made the spectator walking experience essentially impossible; on fast ground such sloping often creates bouncing that can get uncontrollable (not to mention putts that can make two-putting near impossible).

Although Jones had free rein to create "sand castles" rather than leaving the course with a charmingly whimsical look, it retained too much of the industrial character of the giant sand and gravel pit mine it once was – and

not because some of the silos remnants were left behind.

Having said all that, it was a course of interesting extremes: too hard (overly severe landing areas) in some places; compensatingly easy (drivable par 4s) in others. Even in the grimness of the US Open, Chambers Bay offered a fair dose of fun golf.

Gary Player's rant about how Chambers Bay is exactly the wrong kind of course for everyday golfers was right, but this was a course built to hold the US Open. It probably would have gone broke without it, but it won't now that it has had it.

THE SETUP

Mike Davis has the hardest job in golf, and it's not running the USGA. Rather it's setting up a US Open course to make it the game's hardest test by creating sufficient defences against increasingly strong golfers with increasingly improved equipment,



and yet keep the challenge "fair." He did an admirable job at Chambers Bay.

First, Davis stayed true to a main message the USGA believes is urgently needed: That golf courses must use less water, and that the resulting brownish, fast-running fairways and greens are what everyday golfers must begin to accept as the new normal. Chambers Bay was an even better Exhibit A than Pinehurst No 2 last year.

Second, Davis wisely erred on the side of caution in his decisions. The course got a bit too crispy on Saturday afternoon, but Davis reacted by applying heavy water that evening and the next morning, so that in the championship's moment of truth on Sunday, the course was receptive and bent to great golf, making for more exciting shots and competition. He also made a wise decision in retaining the 18th hole as a good par 5 rather than a forced, awkward and essentially unfair par 4, a choice that opened the possibility of a history-making winning eagle on the 72nd hole.

It was the smart play. Rather than a situation that



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Yes, the greens were a source of moaning all week, none coming more loudly than from Billy Horschel on Sunday when he contended their condition didn't "allow someone who is a really good putter to shine this week."

But Ogilvy saw the opposite, saying that less than perfectly smooth surfaces are actually validators for solid contact and good strokes. "Forever great putters have putted well on bad greens."

THE FUTURE

Definitely the spectator experience has to be improved. The best way will be to flatten the hummocks so that they can be traversed by foot and to create larger and better positioned grandstands. Another goal should be to use the adjoining railway and ferries on the scenic Puget Sound to transport spectators to and from the course. Both were part of the original plan, but neither came to fruition.

For whatever design flaws the course might have, it produced interesting shotmaking that looked good on television and satisfied purists most interested in exhibitions of high skill.

"I like the golf that it got us to play," Ogilvy said. "It was not my favourite course, but I like what they're doing. I like the idea behind it."

Will the USGA come

back to Chambers? It should. The soonest it could happen would be about 15 years, plenty of time to make some of the suggested improvements, and even more radical ones, like using the natural advantage of the land's perfect soil to take down some of Jones'"sand castles" and starting over.

Perhaps Chambers Bay's legacy will be the most malleable championship course ever. Which could eventually make it, as Ogilvy said, "The venue."

WINNER'S BAG

JORDAN SPIETH

Ball: Titleist Pro V1x Driver: Titleist 915 D2 (Aldila Rogue Black 60X),

9.5 degrees

3-wood: Titleist 915F,

15 degrees

Irons (3): Titleist 712U; (4-9) Titleist AP2; (PW) Titleist

Vokey SM5

Wedges: Titleist Vokey SM5

(52, 56, 60 degrees)

Putter: Scotty Cameron by

Titleist 009



:ZRA SHAW • ROSS KINNAIRD • ANDREW REDINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

Spinskin technology Spinskin technology.





ONE BAD SWING COSTS GRACE

It's ironic that Branden Grace, who will go down as the forgotten man of Chambers Bay, lost the US Open with a drive out of bounds. All week long, the 27-year-old South African had bisected the baked fescue fairways with low bullets that consistently outran the tee shots of others. Starting the final round tied for the lead and playing with Jordan Spieth, the six-time winner on the European Tour was calm at the start and then birdied the ninth and 12th holes to tie for the lead. But on the easily driveable par-4 16th, Grace pushed his 3-wood tee shot over the fence bordering the right of the hole and made a killer double bogey.

"A straightforward shot, just spun out on it, and that's costly," he said. But Grace, who finished T-4 with a closing 71, lived up to his name in defeat, particularly in his praise of Spieth. "He's a huge talent, exactly what golf needs behind Rory and Tiger. He had a 3-putt on the first and then he handled himself well. Even when he missed putts . . . he just lifted his head up and kept going. Congrats to him, great effort." – JAIME DIAZ

THE COMEBACK THAT ALMOST WAS

He may not have won, but Louis Oosthuizen played the greatest last 54 holes in US Open history. After opening with a 77 (while having to watch Tiger Woods shoot 80 and Rickie Fowler 81), the 32-year-old South African shot two 66s followed by a 67 on Sunday, his 199 total breaking the championship record for the last three rounds by three strokes.

In the final round, Oosthuizen went out in 38 and appeared out of it, but came back with a championship-tying 29 on the back nine to tie for second with Dustin Johnson at four-under 276, a stroke behind Jordan Spieth. Oosthuizen, who has had to WD multiple times the last two years with back issues but is healthy now, played the last seven holes in 21 strokes, making six birdies. "I thought four under would probably be second and then when I walked in, I saw Jordan made double on 17," said Louis. "All of a sudden, you know, it changed." Oosthuizen trailed by 12 on Thursday, with the biggest comeback to win after round one being nine by Jack Fleck in 1955. – Ron Sirak







LENDOWER GOLF CLUB HAS POSITIONED ITSELF AS ONE OF THE TOP THREE CHAMPIONSHIP COURSES IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND THIS YEAR

the classic Gauteng parkland beauty, ranked No 12 by Golf Digest in its 2014 ranking of South Africa's best courses, will have hosted five of the country's premier tournaments, an unprecedented achievement.

After hosting the club's fifth SA Open in January, Glendower then was home to a Ladies Sunshine Tour event in February and the SA Women's Strokeplay championship in March. September will see the men's Premier Interprovincial return to the club for the first time in 22 years, and the Sunshine Tour's BMG Classic is back at Glendower in October.

When European Ryder Cup captain Paul McGinley played in the 2013 SA Open at Glendower, he remarked: "I've never played here before, but I love the course.

It's fabulous, a throwback to tradition in the centre of one of the world's major cities. It's one of the best courses I've played, very visual, well bunkered and extremely well set up. We don't get to play on many traditional courses anymore and I was delighted. I could see this as a potential venue for a US Open if it was in America. It's so reminiscent of the great courses in the United States."

Glendower Golf Club was opened in March 1937, two years after 10 businessmen had formed a company and purchased the farm Glendower east of Johannesburg with the purpose of creating a country club. English architect Charles Allison designed the course, parkland in nature as the farm had numerous tree plantations, and local professional A F Tomsett did the construction.

Such was the standard of the work and layout that in 1939

the club played host to its first major tournament, the Transvaal Open, won by Bobby Locke with a world record 72-hole score of 265. He had rounds of 66-69-66-64.

In 1973 the club's grounds were proclaimed a nature reserve, to preserve the excellent variety of birdlife to be found on the course. Glendower has 55 different bird species, including sightings of Blue Crane.

Glendower was a regular Sunshine Tour venue in the 1970s and 1980s, where some low scores were shot, including a 61 by Allan Henning in 1975, before the course was given a major upgrade during the '80s. All 18 greens were reshaped and rebuilt, new tees were added, existing water hazards cleared and extended, and new water features added at several holes. This was all done to strengthen the challenge

of the course before Glendower hosted its first SA Amateur championship as part of the club's 50th anniversary celebrations in 1987. Ben Fouchee won the Amateur in a closely-fought 36-hole final with Ernie Els.

The success of that event resulted in Glendower being awarded its first SA Open in 1989. American Fred Wadsworth won on that occasion, and the Open returned in 1992, with Clinton Whitelaw triumphing. Whitelaw remains the only South African winner of an Open at Glendower. The 1997 Open at Glendower was the first time the Open had formed part of the European Tour, and Vijay Singh overcame Nick Price in a thrilling championship.

In 2008, the club commissioned Golf Data to undertake a major project to modernise the greens complexes and reposition



its bunkering. A Sunshine Tour event, the BMG Classic, returned to the club in 2009, and Glendower was a natural choice to be given another SA Open within a few years. It has now hosted the last two Opens, won by Denmark's Morten Orum Madsen in 2013, and Englishman Andy Sullivan in 2015. For the first time, Ernie Els

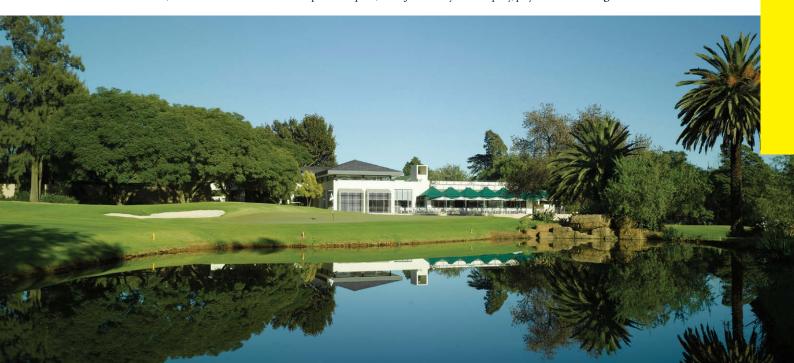
was ambassador of the latest Open, returning to the course where he experienced success as a teenager. He finished fourth in the 1989 SA Open as an amateur.

Glendower offers excellent practice facilities, and is home to the elite academy of Master PGA Professional Gavan Levenson, the former SA Open champion, whose entire golfing career has been spent at the club. Glendower has a quality stocked pro shop under head professional Rudy Whitfield.

Glendower offers tailored membership options to suit each individual's needs. Whether you wish to become a full member, join with your company, play on weekdays or as a senior, the club has a membership option that will best benefit you.

Glendower provides excellent service from bookings to prize giving, and the club prides itself in creating the memorable 'Classic Golf Experience' for all members and visitors.

www.glendower.co.za







HOTBED OF TALENT

The KeNako Academy is raising its profile with strong student performances.

arents have for several years been sending their children to a combined education-and-golf facility, and the fast-growing Ke-Nako Academy in George is beginning to produce an increasing amount of talented young golfers, while also servicing the growing Southern Cape golf region.

Under the tutelage of former European Tour and Sunshine Tour player Roger Wessels, four KeNako members have been selected to represent the eight-man Southern Cape team at the Premier Interprovincial at Glendower in September.

Wessels was the head professional at Killarney CC in Johannesburg before being lured to George in 2009 by businessman Ron Boon, whose ambition was to create a world-class sports academy in South Africa. Boon, retired from his multinational marketing company, had identified George as the perfect location and built the facility within the Kingswood Golf Estate. KeNako means "It is time" in Tswana, and was used as a slogan at the 2010 soccer World Cup.

The academy began with just five students. It now offers two programmes; school-going for 13-18 year-olds (there are 32 learners enrolled this year), and school-leavers, aimed at 18-20-year-olds who have aspirations of a playing career in the game. All the students are given membership at the Kingswood and Oubaai golf clubs, two of the best courses in the region. KeNako is popular with foreigners, who enjoy George's mild climate, and Swiss, French and Korean children are among the 15 students on the school-leavers programme.

Three KeNako students in particular have made big strides in 2015, with Jade Buitendag the headline act. The 20-year-old moved from East London to George to enrol in the academy after winning the 2013 KeNako SA World Juniors event at Kingswood. Ranked No 3 in the country by Golf Digest, Buitendag earned his South African colours in the Zone VI tournament in April, and was in the SA squad that toured the UK in June.

Andre Nel is one of the year's most improved players, and won the Western

Province Amateur in April, beating SA No 2 Teaghan Gauche 3/2 in the 36-hole final. The 20-year-old also hails from East London, having played at the 9-hole Gonubie course. He has six other top-10 finishes this year.

Teenager Cameron Moralee came to attention by finishing second at the Cape Province Open in March, and then played on the winning SA junior team at the Challenge IPT in May with fellow Ke-Nako members Caylum Boon and Julien Sale. Another success story is 17-year-old George local Franklin Manchest, discovered by SA Golf Development Board coaches while hitting balls on a sports field on the outskirts of the town.

Manchest has a bursary at KeNako and in June travelled to Indonesia as a member of a two-man team for the Jakarta World Junior champs. Buitendag, Nel, Moralee and Manchest will play for Southern Cape at Glendower in September, while fellow KeNako member Daniel Mantel will make his IPT debut for Boland.

Wessels and Carlo Kok share the

coaching duties at KeNako, while Jan-Harm Venter is the resident biokineticist and Mariette le Roux the sports psychologist. There is a 20-room hostel on site which can accommodate 40 to 50 students, and schooling is at Rundle College in the centre of George. It uses the Cambridge curriculum, an international education programme of qualifications.

"Our teaching philosophy is to use measurable scientific training methods rather than rely on a subjective opinion," says Wessels. "Even though our methodology makes use of highly technological teaching systems, our method actually simplifies things for our students rather than complicating them. KeNako is able to develop young talent to their maximum sporting potential, whilst simultaneously developing life skills."



Franklin Manchest is a fast-improving George local who has benefitted from a KeNako bursary.

SAMU KEEPS WINNING



uimsig teenager Ivanna Samu added another title to her impressive résumé, beating Danielle du Toit of Pretoria Country Club with a birdie at the third playoff hole to win the Nomads SA Girls Championship at Orkney GC. Samu, the SA Women's strokeplay and amateur champion (she also shared individual honours at the 72-hole teams champs) had rounds of 73-75-76. Woo-Ju Son, a 14-year-old from Eagle Canyon, was third on 225. Modderfontein's Noluthando Mdanda won the B section with 84-83-88, by three from Zimbabwe's Danielle Bekker

FRENCH TWIST AT CARNOUSTIE

all it partial payback for French golfers everywhere – or at least one. Romain Langasque beat Scot Grant Forrest 4/2 in the British Amateur final at Carnoustie, and exorcised a few of the demons passed down by Jean van de Velde, who painfully lost The Open on the Scottish links in 1999.

Langasque, 20, from Nice, was 7up after 23 holes, a margin even Van de Velde couldn't have squandered. Still, the walk into the clubhouse wasn't

without some drama as Forrest cut the lead to three with four to play before bowing out. The world's 72nd-ranked amateur, Langasque shares a swing coach with Victor Dubuisson, who texted Langasque "don't leave me solo at The Open." With the win, Langasque qualified for St Andrews.

None of the eight South Africans qualified for the matchplay from the two qualifying rounds at Carnoustie and Panmure.



LE ROUX ENDS A LONG DROUGHT IN EASTERN CAPE SWING







rancois le Roux had his first win in two years at the Eastern Province Senior Open, and in doing so prevented a historic clean sweep of the Eastern Cape Swing titles by local players. Le Roux (Somerset West) shot 66-71 at St Francis Bay for a two-shot victory over Mzuyanda Zingela (Uitenhage 68-71).

Rookie senior Zingela had won the Eastern Cape Open at Port Elizabeth Golf Club a few days earlier with 71-72, and East London's Norman Phillips had captured the Border Senior Open on his home course the previous weekend, so the chances of a local hat-trick were good until Le Roux returned to the form which saw him win six titles in 2013. His opening five-under 66 included six birdies.

Le Roux led Zingela by three shots with two holes to play, but there was a two-shot swing at the par-3 17th when the EP golfer had a two, and Le Roux a four. However, a par at the par-5 18th was good enough for Le Roux when Zingela closed with a bogey. Zingela moved up to No 4 on the national senior rankings, and Le Roux to No 6.

Christo Reyneke (Lichtenburg 69-72) was third at St Francis Bay ahead of Morgan Phillips (Maritzburg 72-71) and Zola Konzani (Humewood 72-71).

The No 2-ranked Konzani had three excellent outings, losing a playoff for the Border title, and finishing second in the EC Open. Le Roux also excelled, finishing third at East London, where he opened with a 69, and T-5 at PEGC, and had the best six-round aggregate of 435 (average 72.5), one shot lower than Konzani. Zingela was on 439, Norman Phillips 442, and Morgan Phillips 443. Morgan was in the top 5 in all three events, his best being a T-3 at PEGC, and he moves up to No 3 in the rankings.

Phillips became the first Border player in many years to claim his home province open, shooting 70-75 at East London, and he also had a T-6 at St Francis Bay. He is now No 14 in the rankings.

Leonard Pienaar (Glendower) had a hole-inone at East London's tenth.

SENIOR AMATEUR

1	Mellette Hendrikse	101.1 (11
2	Zola Konzani	79.2 (7)
3	Morgan Phillips	79.0 (8)
4	Mzuyanda Zingela	73.6 (8)
5	Basil Naidoo	62.0 (11)
6	Francois le Roux	58.2 (10)
7	Jock Wellington	56.8 (14)
8	Schalk Naude	55.7 (8)
9	Lawrence Franklin	51.1 (8)
10	William Skinner	46.1 (17)

MID-AMATEUR

Fancourt's Henk Geldenhuys shot 69-75 at Wedgewood in Port Elizabeth to win the Eastern Province Mid-Amateur by one from Johnny Ludick (Graaff-Reinet 74-71), with Phillip Croukamp (Akasia 75-71) third ahead of Humewood's Ian Pienaar (73-74), Ryno Ferreira (Uitenhage 74-73) and Wendell Bossenger (Wanderers 75-72).

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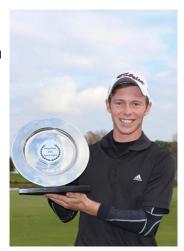
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PERSONAL & BUSINESS INSURANCE

SA JUNIORS EIGHTH IN JAPAN

he SA Junior team were eighth in the annual 15-nation Junior World Cup in Japan, 24 shots behind the hosts, who won by four from Sweden, with Korea ahead of the US. Japan's Ren Okazaki took individual honours by two with 67-68-71-65. Dylan Naidoo was T-15 on 282, Herman Loubser T-18 on 283, Keegan de Lange T-38 on 291 and Marco Steyn T-53 on 299. Japan also won the girls trophy, four clear of Korea, with South Africa sixth out of eight nations.

- ▶ Modderfontein's **Marco Steyn** (right) won the inaugural Dimension Data Junior Open at Fancourt with 72-72-68, by one from Milnerton's Luca Filippi (67-69-77). Keelan van Wyk was third on 220, followed by Wilco Nienaber, Anuerin Gounden, Kyle Barker, Martin Vorster, Ruan Pretorius and Dawid Opperman on 220.
- ➤ University of Pretoria won the University Sport SA title for the 10th time with their team of Reinhardt Blaauw, Ryan Lane, Marco Loubser and Stephen Morrison at Port Shepstone CC.
- ▶ Vickesh Singh (74-73) beat Aneurin Gounden (75-72) in a playoff to win the David Suddards Trophy at Durban CC. It was the tenth anniversary of the event, where Suddards was awarded honorary life membership to Durban CC at prizegiving.



TOURNAMENT WINNER

JOHAN DU PLESSIS Border Strokeplay, East London GC

SCORES: 74-69-70 (213)

RUNNER-UP: Sean Bradley 73-74-68 (215)

HOW HE DID IT: The veteran home club member made 12 birdies and an eagle three at 15 in his last 36 holes for a surprise win by two over a strong field. Du Plessis' last major victory had come 10 years earlier at the same venue in the 2005 EP & Border Champs.

NOTABLE: Royal Cape's Bradley, son of teaching pro Wayne Bradley,

moved into the top 15 of the Golf Digest Amateur Rankings for the first time following his second consecutive runner-up finish. Dainfern's David Meyers was third on 219.

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NOT ONLY GOLF CARTS, BUT ALL LEAD ACID BATTERY APPLICATIONS

GOLF DIGEST AMATEUR RANKINGS

(As at July 1)

Player		Club	Points
1. Tristen Strydom		Serengeti	1694
2.	Teaghan Gauche	Wingate Park	1424
3.	Jade Buitendag	Kingswood	1113
4.	Darin de Smidt	Krugersdorp	1102
5.	Jason Smith	Irene	1028
6.	lan Snyman	Durbanville	1020
7.	Matthew Spacey	Dainfern	1010
8.	David Meyers	Dainfern	1005
9.	Rupert Kaminksi	Parkview	987
10.	Aubrey Beckley	Potchefstroom	982
11.	Andre Nel	Kingswood	939
12.	Luke Trocado	Atlantic Beach	902
13.	Phillip Kruse	Woodhill	894
14.	Marco Steyn	Modderfontein	802
15.	Sean Bradley	Royal Cape	789
16.	Hendrik Stoop	Centurion	784
17.	Keegan de Lange	Pretoria C C	756
18.	Gerlou Roux	Bellville	625
19.	Paul Boshoff	Serengeti	619
20.	Kyle McClatchie	Serengeti	619
21.	Herman Loubser	Theewaterskloot	f 599
22.	Andi Dill	Royal J&K	564
23.	Jason Viljoen	Eye of Africa	545
24.	Jovan Rebula	George	543
25.	Stefan Cronje	Nigel	520
26.	T Bezuidenhout	Rustenburg	492
27.	Jason Rossiter	Krugersdorp	487
28.	Andrew vd Knaap	Centurion	479
29.	Armandt Scholtz	De Zalze	443
30.	Albert Venter	Centurion	412
31.	Angus Ellis-Cole	Glendower	404
32.	Marco Loubser	Centurion	385
33.	Bryce McCabe	Glendower	382
34.	Gareth Clements	C C Joburg	380
35.	Cameron Moralee	Kingswood	376
36.	Neil du Preez	Aliwal North	376
37.	J H du Preez	Pretoria C C	373
38.	Teaghan Moore	Nigel	367
39.	Reinhardt Blaauw	Centurion	361
40.	Malcolm Mitchell	Howick	361
41.	Basil Wright	Houghton	351
42.	Sieg Human	Uitenhage	346
43.	Louis Taylor	C C Joburg	343
44.	Dylan Naidoo	Modderfontein	341
45.	Johan Germishuys	De Zalze	337
46.	Altin vd Merwe	Bellville	335
47.	Carlo O'Reilly	Atlantic Beach	334
48.	Werner van Wyk	Glenvista	332
49.	Fezekile Kana	PE Golf Club	313
50.	Ryan Dreyer	Killarney	310
	-	-	

For regularly updated rankings of the top 100 positions on the Golf Digest Rankings, visit Facebook.com/GolfDigestSA.



WINNING LETTER

BREAKING YOUR AGE ON THE GOLF COURSE

had the pleasure of "breaking my age" on the Woodmead course at Country Club Johannesburg recently with a 74 off the men's tees. It was the first time I had achieved the feat, and it got me thinking: How many golfers ever succeed in doing that?

A friend at CCJ, who has achieved that 60 to 70 times, says an essential element is to maintain good health. He played off a 10 from the club tees until he was 84. Old sports injuries take their toll. As we get older, arthritis is a problem, so swings get shorter and less rhythmic. Courses have been lengthened and upgraded, which makes them more difficult than they used to be. Playing on a short course with a 70 standard scratch is obviously easier than on a tough 72 layout.

I would imagine that the ages from 74 to 84 are one's best window of opportunity, as long as you can putt and chip well. One still enjoys some length off the tee. And you would have to be a single-figure handicap to have any realistic chance.

Paul Steyn, Gauteng

Terry Long (Humewood), now 93 and no longer playing, broke his age more than 700 times after turning 70. He won the Humewood club championship at 77. Former Springbok cricketer Kim Elgie (Kloof CC) is 82 and has regularly broken his age, as has 86-year-old former SA Amateur champion Alan Jackson (Humewood). Jon Hobday (Rondebosch GC) last year had a 69 at Arabella at age 75.

FOR ENJOYABLE GOLF, GOLFERS WANT TIDY, PLAYABLE COURSES

he story these days is of fewer golf rounds, and everyone trying to up the numbers. At two golf days in two different provinces I realised that the golf courses are among the culprits. The first day was at a prominent course in Limpopo. A large number of Gauteng golfers made the drive north for an enjoyable round but, for some unknown reason, the greenkeeper thought it in the course's best interest to play greenkeeper's revenge.

Afterwards, golfers were complaining about the tee boxes being all the way back, and pin positions which could have been set up for the PGA Tour. For some golfers it was the first time they had played the course. Do you really think they'll be back ... soon? Golfers love to play courses, especially for the first time, that make them feel good about their game. Three-putting for a single-figure handicap does not constitute fun.

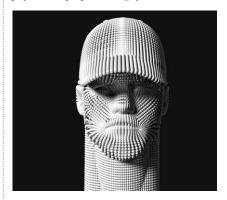
The second course (in Gauteng) did not even care enough to rake their bunkers before the start of the golf day. If courses improve their golfing experience, and make sure each golfer teeing off on their course comes off it with only praise, will this not increase the number of rounds played per year? Heinrich du Preez, Pretoria.

SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE TOP GOLF JOBS IN DUBAI

isiting friends in Dubai, I played various course in the area, including The Els Club, Arabian Ranches and Emirates. I found it interesting and also quite concerning that all three clubs have South African managers. At The

Els Club the young South African Golf Operations Manager mentioned there were at least 10 South Africans working in important positions at top-end clubs in the UAE. Higher salaries are probably the main reason for losing these people, but where does this leave us back in South Africa? What is the future for our facilities if our experts are leaving? *Larry White, email*

The local golfing industry has its limitations in terms of work prospects, with just over 200 18-hole courses, so there are fewer jobs for a growing number of people coming into the industry. Many have found top positions overseas, but that doesn't mean our local facilities are any the worse off. We still have great professional people looking after them.



THE GRIT FACTOR



our article "The Grit factor" (May) is one of the best pieces I have read in a long while. The content is cut-

ting edge and relevant to every level of golfer wishing to improve. I read it over and over to fully take in the full extent of what Bob Carney was saying, and have had a relook at both my practice and my teaching as a result.

Steve Cottingham, Head Professional, Mt Edgecombe Golf Academy, Umhlanga

WINNING LETTER PRIZE



Golf Digest and Titleist South Africa have teamed up to offer the sender of the best letter for the month a box of Titleist Pro V1 golf balls and a Titleist cap.

Write to the Gallery: stuart.mclean@newmediapub.co.za. Please include your full name, address and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity and may be published or otherwise reused in any medium.





CHAMBERS BAY: LET'S CONVERT OUR MINE DUMPS INTO GOLF COURSES

hambers Bay's unique design was displayed to perfection in the US Open, and TV did a marvellous job. It's not easy to make wasteland look like a US Open layout. Couldn't we have our own Chambers Bay in South Africa: A course conducive to dry weather and poor soil? The bunkers are substantial little deserts. and the generously wide fairways and huge rolling greens are oases. It doesn't appear to need much water to maintain. It should be prominently situated, so I have a brilliant plan. Convert old mine dumps into golden courses. The Chamber of Mines could create our own copycat course called Chambers Gold. And all the foliage one needs is one tree. I'd like an invitation to the opening. John Price, Port Elizabeth

MULLIGANS AND FREE DROPS DON'T HELP YOUR GOLF

am a social player with a love for the game but a lack of natural talent for it. During a decade of playing, I have seen a lot of players who think they are doing themselves a favour by accepting

all sorts of friendship awards from their playing partners, to their own woeful detriment. Phrases like "That one never happened, just hit another one," "You can have that putt," or "Shift it away from that tree," and "Drop it over there, we'll save time and balls," are used frequently, especially during social rounds.

While I am not the golfer who will perform a citizen's arrest if they move their ball in the rough, I do believe the joke is ultimately on them.

These players tend to score in a similar range week to week, and put more effort into that rather than focusing on weaknesses. They try the same booming drive on a par 5 with water on the right because they know they will have a second go at it if the first drive finds the water. The better player would either hit a 3-wood that cannot reach the water, or spend more time on the range to get rid of that power fade.

By far the quickest gain for these players is putting. By simply putting until the ball falls into the hole, a friend of mine has dropped from 2.1 putts per hole to 1.7. I still get paired with players who partake in this "social" form of golf and I would advise them to rather stick to the rules at all times. It will improve your game, and your scores.

Anton de Jongh, Silver Lakes, Pretoria

RULES DECISION: BUNKER DAMAGE

Playing at a Cape Town course, my ball finished in a bunker which unusually was full of holes, obviously dug by a dog. Was I entitled to free relief from the damage?

There is nothing in the Rules of Golf which allows relief from this sort of damage. A golfer cannot just assume the damage is unusual, and not caused by an inconsiderate golfer. Only a hole made by a burrowing animal, reptile or bird is classed as Abnormal Ground Conditions from which relief is obtainable.

However, on courses which are accessible to the public, golf club committees can make a local rule (Decision 33–8/9) providing relief from damage to bunkers caused by children playing in them. The committee could declare unusual damage to a bunker as ground under repair. In that case, the golfer would be allowed a free drop inside the bunker.

Carol and Chris Goldsbury, Cape Town



Inside the Ropes



PARK'S PLACE IS AGAIN AT NO 1

t's hard to figure what's more impressive: That Inbee Park has 15 LPGA victories at age 26; that she has won six majors and five of the last 12; that she has won the Women's LPGA Championship three consecutive years on three different courses; that she tied the record for most strokes under par in any major, men's or women's, at 19 under par; or that she played the final 56 holes without a bogey in winning her third LPGA Championship at Westchester Country Club, formerly a PGA Tour stop. Tiger Woods was also 19 under at the 2000 Open Championship at St Andrews. Park is back to No 1 on the Rolex Rankings, ahead of Lydia Ko.

CLARK MAKES A MOVE

im Clark was perhaps the staunchest opponent of the upcoming anchor ban (January 1, 2016), explaining that a conventional putter is difficult to use in his case because of physical issues. However, Clark has made a modest move towards conformance on the PGA Tour by trying a 40-inch (102-cm) Biomech putter in place of his Odyssey 2-Ball long putter. The Biomech is a square-shape mallet designed so that the shaft enters the clubhead at the rear. The putter's grip rests against the inner portion of the forearm, stabilising the hands, arms and shoulders. That method of putting will be allowed in 2016. It will be interesting to see if he stays with it.

PUTTING WITH A WEDGE

It's probably not a great idea to toss your caddie your putter if he has butterfingers. Yet that's what happened to Robert Streb, although instead of it costing him The Greenbrier Classic, Streb nearly won the tournament. When Streb's Scotty Cameron by Titleist GoLo Knucklehead putter hit the ground after the caddie fumbled the toss during the final round, the shaft broke. Unfortunately for Streb, that also meant he couldn't replace it as Rule 4-3a is clear that a damaged club can only be used, replaced or repaired if damaged during the normal course of play. That led Streb to his Titleist Vokey SM5 wedge his 56 degree model with 10 degrees bounce. Striking putts with the leading edge of the club, Streb made five birdies over the last nine holes to get into a four-way playoff. Streb was able to use a replacement putter in the playoff – which constitutes a new round (Decision 4-3/12) – but ironically never got to putt in overtime as he was eliminated before his turn to putt occurred.



SuperSportDiary

ALZHEIMER'S CAUSED OOSTERHUIS TO RETIRE FROM TV BOOTH

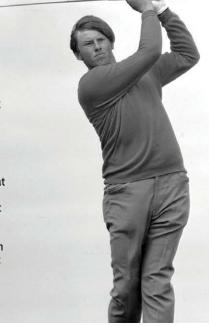
TV commentator Peter Oosterhuis has revealed to the golfing world that his decision to retire from the TV booth last year was as a result of being diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's. The 67-year-old Englishman, a runner-up in two Opens in the 1970s when he was the top player on the European Tour and one of the tallest players in the game, was given the bad news a year ago.

He had been aware of some memory loss that was affecting his commentary on CBS and Golf Channel. Still, he was surprised at the severity of the diagnosis of a disease that is projected to grow to epidemic proportions by 2050. Currently, there is no cure. For several months, Oosterhuis and his wife told no one, but with his contract expiring in November, 2014, he informed CBS colleague and friend Jim Nantz of his disease. In January, after consulting with his wife, Oosterhuis issued a statement that said, in part,

"I feel it is the right time to step away to focus on things in life that I have always wanted to do."

Oosterhuis loved the broadcasting lifestyle and wanted to work for many more years. He is revealing his story publicly because he wants to do what he can to help Alzheimer's treatment and research. He has been in a programme for an experimental drug in its third trial that is designed to break down the formation of plaque in the brain that causes Alzheimer's, and which has given scientists hope that a breakthrough might be near.

"This is the kind of illness in which you don't want to think about what the future holds," says Renton Laidlaw, his friend and former broadcast partner for Golf Channel's European Tour events. "Peter is a man of high character – it's why he was such an excellent companion in the commentary box – and what he's doing by going public is very brave."



THE TOURS

THOMAS/GETTY

AUGUST

PGA TOUR

Aug 6-9 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, Firestone CC, Akron, Ohio. Rory McIlroy. Aug 6-9 Barracuda Championship Montreux G&CC, Reno, Nevada. Geoff Ogilvy. Aug 13-16 97th PGA Championship,

Whistling Straits, Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Rory McIlrov.

Aug 20-23 Wyndham Championship, Sedgefield CC, Greensboro, North Carolina. Camilo Villegas.

Aug 27-30 The Barclays, Plainfield CC, Edison, New Jersey. Hunter Mahan

EUROPEAN TOUR

Aug 20-23 Made in Denmark, Himmerland Resort, Farso, Denmark. Marc Warren. Aug 27-30 Czech Masters, Albatross Resort, Prague, Czech Republic. Jamie Donaldson.

CHAMPIONS TOUR

Aug 7-9 Shaw Charity Classic, Canyon Meadows CC, Calgary, Canada. Fred Couples.

Aug 21-23 Boeing Classic, TPC Snoqualmie Ridge, Snoqualmie, Washington. Scott Dunlap.

Aug 28-30 Dick's Sporting Goods Open, En-Joie GC, Endicott, New York. Bernhard Langer.

SUNSHINE TOUR

Aug 4-6 Sun City Challenge, Lost City GC, North West. Dean Burmester. Aug 20-22 Vodacom Origins of Golf, San Lameer CC, KZN. Keith Horne. Aug 25-27 Wild Waves Challenge, Wild Coast Sun CC, KZN. Colin Nel

UIDE SUPERSPORT TV TIMES

AUGUST 6-9

WGC-BRIDGESTONE INVITATIONAL

Thurs/Fri: 19h30-00h30 on SS5 **Sat/Sun:** 18h00-00h00 on SS6

AUGUST 13-16

97TH PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Thurs/Fri: 19h00-00h00 on SS5 Sat/Sun: 20h00-01h00 on SS5 PORTLAND LPGA CLASSIC Sun: 23h00-01h00 on SS7

AUGUST 20-24

MADE IN DENMARK

Thurs/Fri: 11h30-13h30 & 15h30-18h30 on SS5

Sat: 13h00-17h00 on SS6 Sun: 12h30-17h00 on SS1 WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP Thurs: 21h00-00h00 on SS1

Thurs: 21h00-00h00 on SS1 Fri: 21h00-00h00 on SS5 Sat: 19h00-00h00 on SS5 Sun: 19h00-00h00 on SS1

US AMATEUR

Thurs-Sun: 21h00-00h00 on SS8
CANADA PACIFIC WOMEN'S OPEN

Mon: 01h00-04h00 on SS1

AUGUST 27-30

CZECH MASTERS

Thurs/Fri: 11h00-13h00 on SS5 & 15h00-18h00 on SS1 Sat: 13h00-17h00 on SS5 Sun: 12h30-17h00 on SS1

THE BARCLAYS

Thurs/Fri: 20h00-00h00 on SS5 Sat: 19h00-00h00 on SS5 Sun: 19h00-00h00 on SS1 YOKOHAMA LPGA CLASSIC Sun: 23h00-01h00 on SS5

OTHER

GOLF PROGRAMMES

INSIDE THE PGA TOUR

Wednesdays at 19h00-19h30 on SS1.

PGA TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesdays at 20h55-21h55 on SS1.

EUROPEAN TOUR WEEKLY

Wednesdays at 18h35-19h00 on SS1.

EUROPEAN TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesdays at 20h00-20h55 on SS1.

CHAMPIONS TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Aug 5, 12 & 26 at 23h00-00h00 on SS1.

SA WOMEN'S AMATEUR HIGHLIGHTS Aug 4 at 18h30-19h00 on SS8.

SUNSHINE TOUR WORLD

Aug 7 at 12h15-12h45 on SS5.

SUNSHINE TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Aug 14 at 17h30-18h00 on SS5, Aug 28 at 18h30-19h00 on SS5.

SUPERGOLF

Wednesdays at 19h30-20h00 in SS1.



Proof that tennis isn't as exciting as golf - Miguel Angel Jimenez nods off at Wimbledon.

You get 30 or so alpha males together on a plane, and it can get pretty wild.

Undercover Tour Pro

My favourite perk: Free flights for everybody!



very time I board a plane, it's to go play a golf course that's going to be in the best condition its members see all year. The fairways and greens are guaranteed to be perfect, and the weather forecast is usually pretty good, too. Never mind that I made \$2 million last year. It's for these reasons and more that I try never to complain about cancelled flights, lost luggage or idiotic security. What's true for business travellers is especially true for PGA Tour players: No one cares what happened to you at the airport.

I don't make enough to fly privately. A few seasons ago I experimented with some jet shares, and it was like setting money on fire. With endorsements and prize money, I figure you need to be pulling in at least \$5 million a year to justify the expense.

I have enough points, so I almost always get bumped to the front of the bus, but the food and comfort of a first-class cabin don't compare to even a third-class home-cooked meal. There are only a handful of flights each year I enjoy: the charters certain tournaments organise for us.

Because they fall on the schedule the week before or after a major, tournaments like Hartford and Quad Cities will arrange a jet to entice marquee players to commit. This year even the New Orleans event got a plane to take guys to the Match Play in San Francisco. Though it's a regular commercial aircraft, the experience is private. You drive your courtesy car right to the tarmac, there are people who unload your luggage, and the security is minimal. I usually give my extra free ticket to my caddie, but if you have a wife and a bunch of kids you'll be accommodated. I've never heard of a player having to pay for extra seats.

What I love about these flights is the camaraderie. There are no assigned seats. Typically, players with families will migrate towards the back. Guys who want to drink and cut up will congregate towards the front. There can be some horseplay across the aisle. Most fans don't know their

personalities because they're not always high on leader boards, but Tom Gillis, Carl Pettersson and Jason Bohn might be the funniest guys out here. Very sarcastic. There's another fella whose signature move on these flights, after a few drinks, is to challenge every player to punch him in the stomach. He's not exactly in great shape, but he's got a rock-hard gut.

A Tuesday practice round is a waste if you've got a hangover, so Sunday night is really our only chance to let loose. You get 30 or so alpha males together on a plane after the stress of four rounds of tournament golf, and sometimes it can get pretty wild. Often the plane lands and a group will head straight to a bar and keep it going.

I wish more tournaments would arrange these charters. I'd be happy to pay my fare just

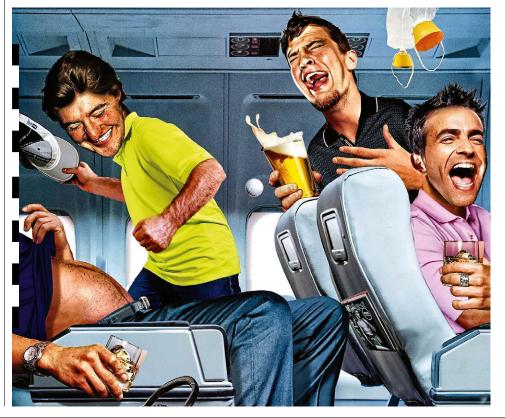
for the convenience. The fact that travelling together builds the brotherhood of our tour is the bonus. For me, it's the biggest thing a tournament can do to influence my decision to play.

Of course, I'm single.

Talk to players with families, and they'll say daycare is most important. Certain tournaments will organise activities like trips to a local zoo, water park and art classes, and apparently some programmes are better than others. I don't know much about it. All I hear is that for a lot of these guys, their wives pretty much tell them what events they're playing.

For example, at Charlotte, the tournament directors organised a private jet to take the wives to Charleston for a day of shopping. I'm sure the mimosas were flowing.

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